

STARS AND STRIPES[®]

**No. 1 USC
rallies past
Oregon State**

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Southern California's
Dominique Byrns, left, and
Oregon State's
Brandon Blomner

**Guardsman
hits snag in
stop-loss case**

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A Marine in
gladiator costume

**Marines blow
off steam in
chariot race**

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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2004

Iraqi government declares martial law

U.S. says Fallujah 'isolated' in preparation for assault Page 3



**School
daze:
Iraqi
kids
delight
in gifts
from
visiting
GIs**

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JULIANA GITTLEN/Stars and Stripes

During an impromptu visit by soldiers from the 14th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division to deliver school supplies to a remote Iraqi school, Maj. Brian Grady, with Company B of the 448th Civil Affairs Battalion, shows an Iraqi boy the contents of a backpack.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

World

Iran's nuclear program: Iran and European nations reached a preliminary agreement about Iran's nuclear program at talks hoped to avoid a U.N. showdown, but all countries involved still must approve it, Iran's chief negotiator said Sunday in Tehran.

If approved, the deal could be a major breakthrough following months of threats and negotiations and could spare Iran from being referred to the U.N. Security Council, where the United States has warned it would seek economic sanctions.

The preliminary agreement worked out with Britain, France and Germany could be finalized in the next few days, chief Iranian negotiator Hossein Mousavian told state-run Iranian television from Paris, where talks wrapped up Saturday.

Meanwhile, lawmakers in Iran's conservative-dominated parliament pushed for a bill banning the production of nuclear weapons in a gesture of building more international trust.

Haitian violence: An armed group fired on a police station in northwestern Haiti on Saturday, prompting officers to flee while prisoners escaped and more than 100 people started a flurry of looting, officials said.

No one was reported killed in the clash in Gonaves, the country's third-largest city, which left the station empty after looters broke into the building and carried away furniture and other items, police spokeswoman Gessy Coicou said.

The attack happened several hours after a suspected gang member was arrested for attacking and looting humanitarian aid workers and other items, police spokeswoman Gessy Coicou said.

Shipment of food for victims of recent floods that wiped out much of Gonaves are commonly attacked by young men armed with guns and stones.

India missile test: India on Sunday tested a nuclear-capable ship-launched missile off its eastern coast, an official said.

The Dhanush missile, capable of carrying both conventional and nuclear warheads, was launched from an Indian navy ship in the Bay of Bengal, the official said on condition of anonymity.

Pakistan, which also routinely carries out missile tests, declined comment on the test but said it was against an arms race.

"Dhanush," which means "bow" in the Hindi language, was tested from the ship INS Subhadra some 20 miles away from India's missile testing site at Chandipur-on-Sea in the eastern state of Orissa. The site is 750 miles southeast of New Delhi.

With a strike range of 156 miles, the missile can carry a load of 1,100 pounds, the Indian official said.

French protester killed: A French anti-nuclear protester was killed Sunday in eastern France when his leg was severed by a train carrying radioactive waste to Germany, a police official said.

The incident took place further down the rails from where two other anti-nuclear protesters had earlier chained themselves to the tracks near the town of Nancy, France, briefly delaying the train, rail officials said.

Paramedics quickly cared for the protester after the incident near the town of Avricourt, but his leg was severed and he ended in route to a nearby hospital, the police official said on condition of anonymity. The official said at least one other protester had been injured.



Anniversary remembrance: Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force personnel stand at attention Sunday during inspection marking the 50th anniversary of the founding of Japan Self-Defense Forces at Asaka Base, north of Tokyo.

At least 4,500 people demonstrated Saturday at the radioactive waste way station in Gorleben, paid of regular protests over concerns that the nuclear material is unsafe.

Serbia war crimes: The former minister of Serbia-Montenegro on Sunday accused Serbia's government of protecting suspects wanted by the U.N. war crimes court.

Vuk Draskovic blasted the Serbian leadership for a "political and spiritual return of Serbia to the era of (former president) Slobodan Milosevic."

Milosevic's war campaigns in the 1990s led to war crimes charges against him and dozens of other Serbs. After losing power, Milosevic was handed over to the U.N. court in 2001, as were several other suspects, but another 15 remain at large.

Western powers have warned Serbia to extradite the fugitives — notably Bosnian Serb wartime general Ratko Mladic — or face sanctions. The republic's leadership insists that Mladic's whereabouts are unknown, while the other fugitives should be tried before a domestic, not the international, court.

Kashmir border fence: A fence that India is building along its disputed Kashmir frontier with Pakistan has already prevented many suspected Islamic rebels from crossing into its portion of the Himalayan region, an Indian Cabinet minister said Sunday.

Home Minister Shivraj Patil, on his first visit to the region since the Congress-led government came to power in May, didn't give any figures for the drop in incursions, and he even added that they were still going on.

The electrical barbed-wire fence, designed to stop Islamic fighters infiltrating from Pakistan, will cover 360 miles of the 465-mile boundary once completed later this year.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said on Friday that his government's commitment to resolving the Kashmir dispute depended on whether Pakistan stops suspected

Islamic insurgents from using its territory to launch attacks against India.

States

\$10 million spaceship prize: The designers of the first privately manned rocket to burst into space were handed a \$10 million check Saturday, a prize designed to encourage technology that will open the heavens to tourists.

SpaceShipOne designer Burt Rutan accepted the Ansari X Prize money along with a 150-pound trophy as a chase plane flew over the ceremony in a field adjacent to the St. Louis Science Center.

The rocket plane, financed with more than \$20 million from Microsoft billionaire Paul Allen, qualified for the prize by blasting into space twice in five days last month.

The X Prize, offered to the first team to get into space twice in a 14-day span, will now evolve into a regular competition called the X Prize Cup.

Florida hurricane victims: Nearly three months after Hurricane Charley devastated parts of southwestern Florida, hundreds of people displaced by the storm still have not received temporary housing.

About 650 people have been placed in travel trailers or mobile homes in Charlotte County, one of the hardest-hit counties, but about 500 more units are needed, said Dennis Kinnab, manager for the Port Charlotte field office of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Ben Davis, a FEMA strike team leader, said officials are still going door to door to assess the need in Charlotte County. Many of those displaced are staying with family and friends, renting apartments or staying at motels.

Serial killer to face victims' families: A former nurse who admitted killing 17 patients at hospitals in two states must attend a sentencing hearing where he will face the families of six of his alleged victims, a judge ruled.

Judge William H. Platt said he would not accept Charles Cullen's waiver of his right to appear at his sentencing after he is expected to plead guilty Nov. 17 to killing six patients in Lehigh County, Pa.

Cullen, 44, is charged with six counts of homicide and three counts of attempted homicide in Lehigh County. He faces a life prison sentence.

Cullen's attorney, public defender Johnnie Mask, said he was not happy with Platt's decision but would not oppose it.

Besides the six in Lehigh County, Cullen has pleaded guilty to using lethal doses of medication to kill 17 mostly elderly patients at hospitals in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

War on terrorism

No Iraq traps for German military: U.S. Ambassador Daniel Coats sought to allay fears that President Bush's election might signal a new effort to obtain military support from Germany in Iraq, saying in remarks released Sunday that the administration knows the country is against sending troops.

"The U.S. administration has accepted that Germany will not be sending any soldiers to Iraq in the foreseeable future," Coats said in remarks released in Germany to be published Monday in the Handelsblatt newspaper. "We hope for other means of support."

Ties between Berlin and Washington were strained by Chancellor Gerhard Schröder's opposition to last year's U.S.-led war in Iraq.

Stories and photos from wire services

Iraq declares 60-day state of emergency

U.S. troops isolate Fallujah ahead of expected offensive

BY TINI TRAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The government declared a 60-day state of emergency throughout most of the country Sunday, as U.S. and Iraqi forces prepared for an expected all-out assault on rebels in Fallujah. Insurgents escalated a wave of violence that has killed more than 50 people the past two days.

After the declaration, the U.S. command said American soldiers had "isolated Fallujah" and all traffic in and out of the city had been halted. The statement said U.S. forces were "finishing final preparations for an assault on Fallujah."

Heavy explosions were heard in Baghdad as government spokesman Thair Hassan al-Naqeeb announced the state of emergency over the entire country except Kurdish areas in the north.

"It is going to be a curfew. It is going to be so many things, but tomorrow the prime minister will mention it," he said. Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi will give more details Monday, he said.

Al-Naqeeb declined to say whether the announcement signaled an imminent attack on the insurgent stronghold Fallujah, saying, "We have seen the situation is worsening in this area. Any obstacle will be removed."

After sundown Sunday, Fallujah residents reported heavy exchanges of fire under way between U.S. troops and insurgents near the Jolan neighborhood in the northern edge of the city.

Allawi, who called a meeting Sunday with his defense minister, interior minister and provincial police commanders, said the state of emergency is a "very powerful message that we are serious" about reining in insurgents before elections set for late January.

"We want elections to take place. We want to secure the country so elections can be done in a peaceful way and the Iraqi

people can participate in the elections freely, without the intimidation by terrorists and by forces who are trying to wreck the political process in Iraq," he told reporters.

Allawi, a secular-minded Shiite Muslim, faces strong pressure from within the minority Sunni community against an all-out assault. "I urge the brother prime minister to reconsider the issue of storming Fallujah and to give another chance for dialogue," Hatim Jassim, a member of the Iraqi National Council, told Al-Jazeera television.

Mohammed Ali Bilal, a Fallujah negotiator, urged the Arab League, the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Conferences to "find a peaceful solution for this problem."

The emergency decree was issued as insurgents carried out a second day of assaults in central Iraq, attacking police stations, gunning down government officials and setting off bombs.

Three attacks on U.S. convoys in and around Baghdad killed two American soldiers and wounded five others Sunday, the military said. Residents reported grenades setting police cars aflame on Haifa Street in the heart of the city.

A car bomb also exploded near the Baghdad home of Iraq's finance minister, Adil Abdel-Mahdi, a leading Shiite politician, the Interior Ministry said.

Reda Jawad Taqwi, a spokesman for a major Shiite political party, said that neither Abdel-Mahdi nor any of his family were in his house at the time. "They are all safe, thank God, the minister and his family," Taqwi told the Associated Press.

The U.S. military said the bomb killed one Iraqi bystander and wounded another. A U.S. patrol came under small-arms fire as it responded, wounding one soldier, a statement said.

The wave of violence sweeping the troubled Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad, may be aimed at relieving pressure on



Heat waves swirl around an Iraqi police vehicle after an attack by insurgents using a rocket-propelled grenade on Haifa Street in Baghdad on Sunday. At least one police officer was injured in a similar attack on another vehicle nearby.

Fallujah, where about 10,000 American troops are massing for the green light.

Early Sunday, Marines fired a barrage of artillery at rebel positions inside Fallujah and clashed with insurgents carrying AK-47s, killing at least 16. Two U.S. soldiers were wounded at midnight at a checkpoint near Fallujah, the U.S. military said.

On Sunday, Lt. Gen. John F. Sattler, commanding general of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, gave a rousing pep talk before 2,000 to 3,000 Marines at a base near Fallujah.

"You can feel the energy. You can feel the chemistry. You're going to give that to the force for as they join that fight. God bless you, each and everyone. You know what your mission is. Go out there and get it done," he said.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Saturday, at least 1,127 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 865 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is two higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Friday at 10 a.m. EST.

The British military has reported 73 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 989 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 756 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

The latest identifications reported by the Defense Department: ■ Army Spc. Cody L. Wentz, 21, Williston, N.D., died Thursday when an explosive detonated near his vehicle; assigned to the National Guard 141st Engineer Battalion, Williston, N.D.

Thousands of surface-to-air missiles missing, U.S. says

BY DANA PRIEST
AND BRADLEY GRAHAM

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Several thousand shoulder-fired missiles — the kind that could be used to shoot down aircraft — are missing in Iraq, and their disappearance has prompted U.S. military and intelligence analysts to increase sharply their estimate of the number of such weapons that may be at large, administration officials said Saturday.

Some U.S. analysts figure that as many as 4,000 surface-to-air missiles once under the control of

Saddam Hussein's government remain unaccounted for. That would raise the number of such missiles outside government hands worldwide to about 6,000.

But a senior defense official said yesterday that military intelligence analysts are having difficulty estimating just how many of the portable missiles may have vanished and how many of those may be in working order and therefore a threat to U.S. and other aircraft of violence sweeping the troubled Sunni Triangle north and west of Baghdad, may be aimed at relieving pressure on

"We don't have a good estimate," the official said. "Some have put forward some figures, but there is none that the Defense

Intelligence Agency has confidence in."

Another official said government analysts could not say with any certainty whether the missing weapons remain in Iraq or have been smuggled outside the country. "There is no evidence that they have left the country," he said.

Still, other government officials said the threat that the Iraqi missiles could be used to target military or civilian aircraft remains a very real one. Concern about the Iraqi missiles was raised during a conference on aviation threats last week at the

DIA's Missile and Space Intelligence Center in Huntsville, Ala. The new estimates, based on analysis done by the DIA and with the proliferation section of the CIA, were first reported Saturday by the New York Times.

The U.S.-led invasion forces did not secure all weapons depots in Iraq, and hundreds of thousands of tons of munitions were looted. U.S. officials fear that the shoulder-launched missiles were among the items carried off by groups willing to sell them on the black market to terrorist organizations.

Western intelligence officials

have repeatedly warned of al-Qaida's desire to acquire the missiles for use against American and other airliners. The weapons are easy to hide and cost relatively little — from less than \$1,000 to \$100,000 each.

U.S. officials have said thousands of anti-aircraft missiles, most of them SA-7s, were looted from Iraqi army stockpiles and remain unaccounted for. The U.S. military initiated a buyback program for surface-to-air missiles in August 2003, paying as much as \$500 apiece. Although hundreds were acquired, military officials have said that thousands remain in circulation.

Iraqi television airs confessions of foreign rebels

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's government television station broadcast confessions of what it said were Arab and foreign terrorists who infiltrated the country's porous borders to fight against U.S.-led coalition forces.

The confessions, aired several times over the weekend, were publicized as U.S. and Iraqi forces amassed around Fallujah for an anticipated showdown with fighters in the insurgent stronghold.

Iraqi officials say the fight there is against foreign fighters and "terrorists," and not the people of Fallujah.

The station, Iraqiya, showed 19 Arab males aged 20 to 40, dressed in blue jumpsuits and lined up against a wall while the camera panned their pale, bearded faces. An announcer read a statement accusing the prisoners of "carrying out mass killings, sabotage, inciting sectarianism and racism, destroying the economic and the social infrastructure of our people to take us back to the Dark Ages."

The 19 included five Syrians, five Saudis, four Jordanians, two Egyptians, two Iranians and one Palestinian. Most were said to have entered the country in October 2003, during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.

Only two of them, however, said they came to join the insurgency in Iraq. One said he was from the same town in Jordan as Iraq's most feared terrorist mastermind, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

Saleh Said al-Rahmani, of Mecca, Saudi Arabia, said he crossed the Saudi border to Iraq in Ramadan last year to follow "the call," — a term that generally means to carry the message of Islam.

A young Palestinian, Tayseer Hassan Halabi, said he entered Iraq from Syria where he lived temporarily. "I came to Iraq when the war started to join the fighters," he said. Halabi said he made contacts with insurgents only after arriving in Iraq.

Iraqiya said the 19 were among 167 people arrested recently by Iraqi police and who are now under interrogation.



JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Soldiers with the 14th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division prepare backpacks on the ramp of their Stryker before a rush of children comes to collect them.

14th Cavalry delivers backpacks

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

During a routine mission Saturday in northwest Iraq, soldiers with the 14th Cavalry, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division popped into a remote school and handed out 150 backpacks and toothbrushes.

The visit was a spur-of-the-moment stop for the Stryker Brigadier Combat Team members aimed at helping a school that troops haven't visited in a year, said Maj. Brian Grady, with Company B of the 48th

Civil Affairs Battalion.

Soldiers piled up backpacks filled with school supplies and warnings about unexploded ordnance on the ramps of two Strykers while soldiers and translators asked the school principal to let the children out of class to have at them.

After the mad rush for supplies and plenty of young smiles, the Strykers closed up and headed back to their mission along the Syrian border.

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Engineer Support Variant Strykers, with a front sweeping apparatus, plow along roadsides and find explosives before a convoy does.

The South African-developed Buffalo, called "Al Jamoose" in Arabic, can pick up and examine explosives. It's built to withstand a massive explosion and is a new tool in the Army's anti-bomb arsenal.

PHOTOS BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes



Stryker Brigade Combat Team makes a clean sweep

BY JULIANA GITTLER
Stars and Stripes

FORWARD OPERATING BASE MAREZ, Iraq — Before the convoys roll out, members of the 3rd Engineer Company of the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division make sure they have a smooth passage.

The company's soldiers sweep the roadsides for bombs and help dig out anything they find. In the three weeks they've been in Iraq, they've uncovered a number of bombs and tank rounds burrowed into roadside dirt.

The engineers have two basic missions: They reinforce the camp to protect it from the daily barrage of mortars, and they make sure the convoys can move safely.

The latter involves nerves of steel and help from a few new toys in the Army's anti-bomb arsenal: a Stryker modified to sweep for explosives and a mine-clearing device created in South Africa called the Buffalo, a hulking mass of metal with a long arm capable of digging out explosives.

Days ago, engineers doing a Stryker sweep came across a mound of dirt on a convoy route.

The Buffalo, called *Al Jamoose* in Arabic, was summoned to investigate. "It looked like a dump truck had dropped down some dirt," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Morak, section sergeant with the mobility support platoon. "It wasn't there before so we checked it out."

The Buffalo team dug around and, using cameras attached to the mechanical arm, picked up and examined the contents — three 125 mm tank rounds.

Someone was trying to mess up a convoy, said Capt. Kevin Gollinghorst, company commander.

Morak and Sgt. Jason Harris, the two Buffalo operators, investigate anything suspicious, such as garbage, dead animals and mounds of dirt. If they find anything, the cameras allow a safe, closer look, where they check for wires or anything out of the ordinary.

"Anything that's out there that looks suspicious," Morak said. "We've used the arm quite a bit."

The Buffalo works in tandem with a Stryker designed with a device in front to sweep over and detonate explosives. The two vehicles precede nearly every con-

voys. In the three weeks they've been in the country, the engineer Strykers have taken out explosives three times.

Before the current company arrived, a bomb blew up under a modified Stryker belonging to the unit they replaced, destroying three of the eight tires. The vehicle rolled home on its remaining wheels and the soldiers inside were unharmed. The modified Strykers "are doing what they were designed to do," Gollinghorst said. "The soldiers were [back] out that afternoon."

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Vehicles now armored for unit that refused mission

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A U.S. Army supply unit whose members refused a dangerous fuel delivery mission last month has now fitted its vehicles with armor to protect against attack, the military said Saturday.

Eighteen soldiers from the 343rd Quartermaster Company, a Reserve unit based in Rock Hill, S.C., refused to drive a fuel convoy last month from Tallil air base near Nasiriyah to Taji north of Baghdad, insisting their vehicles were not properly outfit-

ted and the fuel was contaminated.

The mission later was carried out by other troops in the unit, which has at least 120 soldiers, the military said. Their commander was later relieved, but senior officers denied the fuel was contaminated.

In a statement Saturday, the military said the unit was still carrying out inspection, maintenance and training, and had resumed limited operations.

"Specifically, they are supporting convoy missions by providing gun truck escorts and crews

as well as serving as vehicle commanders and crew members in the vehicles of sister units," the statement said. "The 343rd expects to resume fuel delivery missions, with their own vehicles, in the near future."

The statement said all the unit's M931 Tractors and 5-ton gun trucks have been fitted with fabricated armor. In addition, all Humvees have factory add-on armor, the statement said.

The command declined comment on possible punishment for soldiers who refused the supply mission because the investigation was ongoing.



Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, right, meets Sunday with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa in Cairo, Egypt. Talks focused on the Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Iraq.

Syrian government pledges tighter control of Iraqi border

BY SALAH NASRAWI

The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — With preparations under way for U.S. Marines to storm Fallujah, a stronghold of foreign and Iraqi insurgents, Syria pledged Sunday it will do all it can to stop infiltration through its border with Iraq.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa said during a short visit to Cairo to discuss the deteriorating situation in Iraq that a conference to be held in Egypt later this month will help stabilize Syria's war-torn neighbor.

"We are with Iraq's security and with halting this cross-border infiltration into Iraq," al-Sharaa told reporters after his meeting with President Hosni Mubarak.

Iraq's interim government and the United States have been pushing Iraq's neighbors, especially Syria, to secure their borders to prevent foreign fighters from neighboring Arab states and elsewhere to enter Iraq and attack coalition forces.

Middle East states and the powerful Gulf of Eight industrial nations are expected to throw their

support behind the Iraqi interim government's efforts toward stability at a global conference scheduled Nov. 22-23 in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh. China, the United Nations, the Arab League, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the European Union also will participate.

Al-Sharaa said Iraq's interior minister, Falah Naqib, was due in Damascus soon to sign an agreement on cooperating to control the porous border.

Iraqi authorities have closed a border crossing point with Syria, and U.S. troops have sealed the main highway into Fallujah, Iraq, where about 10,000 U.S. troops are massing for a major assault.

An estimated 1,200 hardcore insurgents are believed to be operating in Fallujah — at least half of them Iraqis. They are bolstered by cells believed to have up to 2,000 fighters in the surrounding towns and countryside.

On other issues, al-Sharaa said he and Mubarak discussed the situation in the Palestinian territories in view of Yasser Arafat's grave illnesses. He called on rival Palestinian factions to plot together.

"National unity is the key to achieving Palestinian rights and national consensus is essential to regaining the occupied territories," al-Sharaa said.

150 Army reservists to help augment SETAF mission to Afghanistan

Some to stay in Vicenza, some to deploy

BY KENT HARRIS

Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — About 150 Army reservists in Europe will be mobilized in a few weeks to support the Southern European Task Force (Airborne) mission to Afghanistan.

Some members of the SETAF Augmentation Unit, 330th Rear Operations Center and the 7th Army Reserve Command's headquarters will be sent to Southwest Asia. Others will stay behind and take roles in rear detachments.

Brig. Gen. Richard M. Tabor, the 7th ARCOM commander, said the mobilization might last for up to two years. He said it would be the second time some are called up in as many years, following a brief stint to support operations in Iraq.

Such call-ups are becoming second nature in the unit, Tabor said. "They knew exactly what they were getting into when they became members of the 7th ARCOM," he said in a telephone interview.

"It's not a matter of if, but when, they're going to be mobilized." That date is Nov. 23 for soldiers such as Maj. Sana Mason and Sgt. 1st Class Lara Pedraza. Both are members of the SETAF Augmentation Unit, based in Vicenza. But both live in Germany and don't hold full-time jobs.

Mason's husband retired from active-duty service and works a civilian job with the military. He'll be watching over their 9-year-old daughter, Pedraza's active-duty husband is based in Hofenfelds, Germany.

"He'll just have to take care of a few fish."

"He's responsible," Pedraza said with a smile. "I'm not worried."

Mason said she's known the move would happen for a while.

"When I read in the paper that SETAF was going to go, I knew it right away," she said. During the last mobilization, she was sent to the port of Rotterdam in the Neth-

erlands. She talked with pride about getting out tons of gear for 1st Armored Division troops.

"There's mixed feelings," she said. "Sure I'll miss my family. But there's the sense of duty to your country and knowing what you do is important."

Pedraza, who finished a 10-year active-duty stint in 2002, had just applied for a civilian job when she heard the news. But she's got no complaints.

"I love the uniform," she said. "I raised my hand. It was my duty to do this."

Both women will probably not be deployed to Afghanistan. But that hasn't determined yet.

"SETAF hasn't given us a definite idea on who's going and staying, but we have a pretty good idea," said Master Sgt. Mark Saddler, who will be the SETAF reserve unit's rear detachment NCO.

Most of those going to Afghanistan are currently training with their active-duty counterparts in

Grafenwörth, Germany. The deployment is likely to start in late winter or early spring.

The 330th, based in Kaiserslautern, Germany, and elements of the 7th ARCOM headquarters will join SETAF — leading the mission — and a number of other active-duty units from Germany and the States.

Col. Wesley Forystek, the SETAF Augmentation commander, said in a phone interview that his troops bring a variety of specialized skills when they activate. Most spent time in the active-duty forces and currently hold civilian jobs.

Those assigned to the SETAF unit live in a handful of countries around Europe, with a few from the States. Forystek said the reservists were blending well with their active-duty counterparts in "team-building across the entire staff."

"They're all standing tall and looking good."

E-mail Kent Harris at: harris.k@mil.east.stripenet.mil



Mason

"There's mixed feelings. Sure I'll miss my family. But there's the sense of duty to your country and knowing what you do is important."

Sgt. 1st Class
Lara Pedraza
Vicenza SETAF
Augmentation Unit



Pedraza

Guardisman loses Iraq deployment challenge

But case against stop-loss program continues

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — A National Guard soldier ordered to duty in Iraq is challenging the military's stop-loss program and asking a judge to block the military from involuntarily extending his enlistment.

The program has been criticized as a back-door draft by some lawmakers, including Democrat Sen. John Kerry, who was in Tuesday's presidential elections to George W. Bush.

U.S. District Judge Frank Dammell Jr. refused to grant an injunction stopping the soldier's transfer to Iraq later this month because his California National Guard enlistment does not expire until May. However, if the soldier prevails in his challenge, he can be returned home by court order, the judge said Friday.

The stop-loss program extends enlistment during war or national emergencies. It could keep tens of thousands of personnel in the military beyond their expected time of service.

The Army National Guardsman, identified only as John Doe to prevent harassment or reprisal against him or his family,

argues that the policy does not apply to the National Guard.

His lawyers said the provision can legally be used only when Congress declares war, and not in Iraq.

"He's being deprived of his liberty under an order he charged as unlawful," attorney Joshua Sondheim said Saturday.

Justice Department attorney Matthew Lepore defended the policy, saying it was authorized by an emergency executive order signed by Bush three days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The Sacramento-based soldier is an eight-year veteran with combat experience who is married with two children. Court papers said the soldier's family faces financial hardship because of his extended absence from his civilian job.

He signed up under a National Guard program for veterans that offers military education and family medical benefits for a one-year trial. Before that term expired, he was called up for an 18-month tour that will extend his enlistment by nearly a year.

Last week, the Army agreed to honorably discharge Capt. Jay Ferriola, who was told to go to Iraq even though he had notified the Army he was resigning.

Vet sues Army for being called back

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A veteran of the first Persian Gulf War is suing the Army after it ordered him to report for duty 13 years after he was honorably discharged from active duty and eight years after he left the reserves.

Kauai resident David Miyasato received word of his reactivation in September, but he says he believes he completed his eight-year obligation to the Army long ago.

"I was shocked," Miyasato said Friday. "I never expected to see something like that after being out of the service for 13 years."

His federal lawsuit, filed Friday in Honolulu, seeks a judgment declaring that he has fulfilled his military obligations.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Harry Yee said his office would defend the Army. He declined to comment further. An Army spokeswoman at the Pentagon declined to comment to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Miyasato, 34, was scheduled to report to a military facility in South Carolina on Tuesday.

Within hours of filing the lawsuit, however, Miyasato received a fax letter from the Army's Human Resources Command saying his "exemption from active

duty had not been finalized at this time" and that he has been given an administrative delay for up to 30 days, said his attorney, Eric Seitz.

Miyasato, his wife, Estelle, and their 7-month-old daughter, Abigail, live in Lihue, where he opened an auto-tinting shop two years ago.

His lawsuit states that Miyasato is suing not because he opposes the war in Iraq, but because his business and family would suffer "serious and irreparable harm" if he is required to serve.

Miyasato enlisted in the Army in 1987 and served in Iraq and Kuwait during the first Persian Gulf War as a petroleum supply specialist and truck driver.

Miyasato said he received an honorable discharge from active duty in 1991, then served in the reserves until 1996 to fulfill his eight-year enlistment commitment.

The Army announced last year that it would involuntarily activate an estimated 5,600 soldiers to serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. Army officials would be tapping members of the Individual Ready Reserve — military members who have been discharged from the Army, Army Reserve or the Army National Guard, but still have contractual obligations to the military.

Troops ease tension with 'Ben-Hur' chariot race

Marines slated for Fallujah assault participate in pre-attack diversion

By EDWARD HARRIS

The Associated Press

NEAR FALLUJAH, Iraq — For U.S. Marines awaiting orders to attack Iraq's rebel-held Fallujah, the bugs are packed, trucks are loaded and letters have been sent home, leaving one final, pre-assault diversion: the "Ben-Hur."

Blowing off steam, hundreds of Marines took their cue from the 1959 Charlton Heston classic and gathered Saturday at a base near Fallujah for a slapstick chariot race featuring cobbled-together carts and confiscated Iraqi horses.

"These men are about to face the greatest personal and professional tests of their lifetimes," said Lt. Col. Willy Buhl, commander of 3rd Battalion, 1st Ma-

lines.

"We wanted to lighten things up, take the tension off what we're about to do," said the 42-year-old commander from Los Gatos, Calif., who dreamed up the "First Annual 'Ben-Hur' Memorial Chariot Race."

The Marine chariotreers, wearing togas over their body armor, waved baseball bats down up as spiked maces and jumped into carts forged from cast-off vehicle parts. The makeshift chariots were pulled by Iraqi horses commandeered from looters in the area.

Some 10,000 U.S. troops have encircled Fallujah, a city 40 miles west of Baghdad, to attack Sunni Muslim fighters there — if the final go-ahead is given by Iraq's interim Prime Minister Ayad Al-lawli.



Marines dressed as gladiators charge to their chariots for the "Ben-Hur" race.

U.S. jets pounded Fallujah early Saturday in the heaviest airstrikes in six months — including five 500-pound bombs dropped on insurgent targets. Insurgents struck elsewhere in central Iraq suicide car bombs, mortars and rockets, killing more than 30



AP photos

U.S. Marines of the 1st Division try to control a horse as they stage a chariot race reminiscent of the Charlton Heston movie "Ben-Hur," complete with confiscated Iraqi horses, at their base outside Fallujah, Iraq, on Saturday. For Marines tapped to lead an expected attack on insurgent-held Fallujah the race was a welcome pre-assault diversion.

people and wounding dozens, including more than 20 Americans.

Fallujah is believed to be the headquarters of militant groups, including some responsible for the wave of car bombings and beheadings of foreign and Iraqi hostages. By capturing the insurgent sanctuary, U.S. and Iraqi government forces hope to restore enough order nationwide to enable the country to hold a general election by the end of January.

On Saturday, Marines who endure daily mortar and rocket fire packed unneeded personal belongings into shipping crates, loaded up their Humvees and spoke of what they expected was the last mail pickup for some time.

Tension and anticipation ran

high among the young Marines surrounding Fallujah, many of whom have never tasted combat.

"We're ready to go. I'm just ready to get this done. I want to go and kill people, so we can go home," said Lance Cpl. Joseph Bowman, 20, from North Zulch, Texas. "Kill them and go home, that's all we can do now."

But first, the Marines had a little fun with the horses.

"Friends, Romans, Marines: Lend me your ears for the rules," bellowed the master of ceremonies — Capt. Jonathan Vaughn, 30, of Cleveland. "If all horses die before the finish line, whichever makes it the farthest, wins."

Vaughn's rule seemed prudent since some of the horses didn't

look in prime racing shape, although none died. And the race didn't come off exactly as planned — one steed turned on its chariotier in the first race and tried to bite the Marine — who fended the horse off with a wooden trident, drawing loud cheers.

Instead of chariot-to-chariot races, the Marines held timed heats. Among the highlights for the assembled Marines: When the camp dog, Butch, limped on the racecourse and grazed on the horses' droppings.

A weapons team duo eventually prevailed in the final heat. The horse ran straight over the finish line, scattering Marine bystanders and slamming snout-first into sand-filled barriers. The horse was unhurt.

Bonded by stars

Chief petty officer shares love of stargazing with teenage daughter

BY JASON CHUDY
Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Senior Chief Petty Officer Chris Stein has his head in the stars.

Stein has been an amateur astronomer for more than two decades, looking at galaxies, nebulae, planets, moons and comets in his spare time.

Stripes Spotlight



Senior Chief Petty Officer Chris Stein

Stein is an amateur astronomer who has found that his love for stargazing is shared by his teenage daughter.

Job: Senior enlisted leader with Navy Legal Service Office, Europe and Southwest Asia, Stein has been in the Navy for 23 years.

Age: 41

Family: Wife, Sarah; daughter, Erin, 14

Hometown: Greenfield, Ind.

Stars and Stripes

"I took astronomy in high school," he said. "My high school was fortunate enough to have a planetarium. That's where the bug bit me."

Enlisting after graduation, Stein has carried a variety of telescopes with him over the past 23 years, including to his most recent tour as the senior enlisted leader of the Navy Legal Service Office Europe and Southwest Asia in Naples.

His current telescope — he jokingly calls a "watermelon cannon" — is a \$5,300, 18-inch reflecting telescope he bought last year. When assembled, it stands about 9 feet tall.

"This is the purchase of a lifetime," he said. "This thing is a light bucket — it sucks up photons."

"The planets in this thing look just like the pictures in a textbook," he said. "You can see Saturn in an eyepiece and ... you can see the rings within the rings, and the banding on Saturn itself."

"Then, of course, seeing the banding and festoons and the whirlpools and the red spot on Jupiter with its five moons," he added.

Despite decades of stargazing, Stein said he'll never tire of the hobby and never run out of things to look at.

"You're always finding different things" in objects you've

Senior Chief Petty Officer Chris Stein and his 14-year-old daughter, Erin, have bonded over their shared love of stargazing. "I think there are not too many fathers and daughters doing things (together)," Erin said. "It's usually the mom and the daughter. I think it's kind of cool."

seen many, many times and that's the fun part of it," he said. "The real night sky, when you look up there, is just filled with stars."

Since his arrival in Naples last year, he's been out stargazing only a few times.

"I don't get near the time to do this that I want," he said. "One, I'm pretty busy; two, the sky here in Italy during the summer months is nasty, full of dust and stuff blowing in from Africa."

"But the winter time, the atmosphere settles down," he said. "There's not as much heat in the atmosphere, and by far the majority of the neat stuff is up."

This year, he said, he expects to spend more nights and weekends with his eye to the sky.

Even though astronomy means spending a lot of time away from home — or at least outside of the home — it doesn't mean time away from his family.

The astronomy bug has also bitten his 14-year-old daughter, Erin.

"She was 6 years old in '96 when I got back into it (heavily)," he said. "The first time we took her out we were able to show her something other than stars."

"One star looks like the next in a telescope, more or less," he said. "But when you can go out and see stars, and glob clusters and galaxies ... that hooked her. When she knows I'm bringing out the 'big gun,' she says 'Oh, I want to go.'"

"I just think it's cool," said Erin, a ninth-grader at Naples High School. "I love globula clusters, they're big clusters of stars, and I like nebulae."

"I think it makes me feel special," she said. "For all we know we're just this one small area in all of that (sky). There has to be something else out there."

"Let's just hope they come in peace," Erin said.

For father and daughter, at

least, peace begins at home through a special bond brought by a shared love of astronomy.

"I think there are not too many fathers and daughters doing things (together)," she said. "It's usually the mom and the daughter. I think it's kind of cool."

The astronomy bug hasn't bitten mom Sarah, although at the urging of husband and daughter she can occasionally be coaxed to the telescope.

Stein has tried to introduce others into the hobby. He's taken his telescope to the base school's career day.

"I (also) hope to coordinate a night or weekend (and go somewhere) close by and hook the school into it," he said. "Maybe the parents and kids could come out."

If the children — or parents — are star-struck themselves, Stein said, getting into the hobby isn't as difficult or expensive as they may think.

"The cheapest and probably the most recommended way to get into the hobby is ... to get yourself a good set of binoculars," he said. "With binoculars you can explore whether or not this is something you really want to invest more money and time into."

E-mail Jason Chudy at: chudyj@mail.strips.osd.mil



PHOTOS BY JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

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- | | |
|---|---|
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| 2044 African American Self-Help Foundation | 2002 Compassion International Incorporated |
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| 2005 Alliance Defense Fund | 2006 Fellowship of Christian Athletes |
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| 2022 Association of Gospel Resonance Ministries | 2001 Mercy Ships |
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| 2016 Billy Graham Evangelical Association | 2014 Moody Bible Institute |
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| 2008 Cadence International | 2017 Navigators, The |
| 2004 Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation | 2018 Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, Inc. |
| 2004 Campus Crusade for Christ's Great Commission Foundation | 2018 Officers' Christian Fellowship of the USA |
| 2003 Care Net | 2038 Operation Blessing International Relief and Development Corp |
| 2009 Child Abuse Intervention Fund | 2029 Prison Fellowship International |
| 2020 Children's International | 2031 Prison Fellowship Ministries |
| 2061 Children's Christian Hunger Network | 2045 Promise Keepers |
| 2026 Children's First Fund/World Emergency Relief | 2048 Samaritan's Purse |
| 2048 Children's Hospital/Christ | 2048 Senior Care Fund |
| 2027 Children's Hunger Relief Fund | 2012 Society of St. Andrew |
| 2043 Children's Survival Fund | 2005 Voice of the Martyrs, The |
| 2062 Christian Blind Mission International | 2025 World Council (A Division of OICUSA Ministries) |
| 2028 Christian Broadcasting Network, The | 2078 Worldwide Christian Schools |
| 2041 Christian Foundation for Children and Aging | 2059 Wordlife Bible Translators |
| 2033 Christian Legal Society | 2029 Young Life |

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"...security comes from within...and the security of all men is founded upon the security of the individual."

-M. Hall



Stein sets up the \$5,300, 18-inch reflecting telescope he bought last year. When assembled, it stands about 9 feet tall. "This is the purchase of a lifetime," Stein said.

General leads charge against sexual assault

BY JOSH WHITE
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Sexual assaults by servicemembers against colleagues have dogged the military recently because of increased reports of such attacks in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan and a blistering Pentagon task force report earlier this year that said the Defense Department wasn't doing enough to help victims or punish offenders.

The Defense Department has turned to an experienced Air Force commander and educator to develop a global plan for combating the crime.

Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain, commander of the new Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response, is setting out to change attitudes and educate hundreds of thousands of people about the sensitive topic.

She envisions the most successful approach as one that capitalizes on the military's "team" concept to train soldiers and officers about what is and is not acceptable behavior. "The military is a team. Successful teams are based on people who rely on each other, who can trust each other," McClain said in a recent interview at the Pentagon. "An assault on one is an assault on the team."

And who would want to weaken the team by attacking a teammate? Who would want to discuss something from someone you have to rely on in combat? It is this logic that she thinks can break through.

"Our culture will allow us to make great progress," she said. "It's a difficult subject to discuss because it's personal, because it's sexual, and we as a society don't deal well with that."

McClain said the military could be a great model for dealing with sexual assault if the right policies are set up and followed.

According to the Pentagon, there were 901 cases of alleged assault throughout the Defense Department in 2002 and 1,012 in 2003, numbers that high-ranking Pentagon officials believe represent a fraction of the actual cases because victims often are reluctant to come forward.

The task force also found that the military is failing to protect female soldiers and isn't adequately punishing offenders.

McClain said she is focused on bringing together what she called a "fragmented effort" to deal with sexual assault across the military services, one that has major gaps and is in need of a single point of authority to provide

direction. McClain is now that single point of authority.

"We have the opportunity to have a far-reaching, long-lasting impact," McClain said. "There are a million people in the Department of Defense, and we can put together a program that will hopefully make these people more safe and more secure."

McClain is leading an eight-person team that first came together recently, a team that aims to improve prevention, ensure support for victims and ensure offender accountability.

McClain's team will first work to provide a militarywide definition of sexual assault, one that she hopes will be clear, in plain English and applicable under current military law. She said there is confusion in the field over what constitutes a sexual assault.

"You have to draw your boundaries very clearly," she said.

A recent conference of 150 people from all military services recommended that the department look at five areas, the first of which was coming up with a definition of sexual assault. They also recommended working on how to improve reporting, how to increase transparency in response efforts while also protecting servicemembers' privacy, how to improve the response capability and how to treat foreign nationals who are involved in sexual assault cases. An Oct. 6 summit with top defense leaders gave a go-ahead to McClain's groups to work on those recommendations.

McClain opened her Arlington, Va., office Oct. 12 and has begun organizing, doing strategic planning and getting ready to develop the groundwork for dealing with sexual assault across the military.

"Society is grappling with it just as we are grappling with it," she said, expressing dismay that because sexual assault is so underreported, it is affecting far more people than the statistics show.

McClain said her focus will be on education and training, areas she is experienced in. She most recently was deputy director of operations for technical training at the Headquarters Air Education and Training Command at Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. She has three previous commands, leading the 314th Mission Support Group at Little Rock Air Force Base; the 17th Training Wing at Goodfellow Air Force Base in Texas; and the Air Reserve Personnel Center in Denver.

A major part of the educational effort will be to encourage people to come forward when they've been attacked and to break down bar-



Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain has developed a global plan to combat sexual assaults in the U.S. military.

Brig. Gen. K.C. McClain

Title: Commander, Joint Task Force for Sexual Assault Prevention and Response.

Education: Bachelor's degree in secondary education, Oklahoma State University; master's in public administration, Troy State University; student, NATO Defense College, Rome.

Family: Single; a son and two granddaughters.

Career highlights: Deputy director of operations for technical training, headquarters, Air Education and Training Command, Randolph Air Force Base, Texas; commander, 314th Mission Support Group, Little Rock Air Force Base; commander, Air Reserve Personnel Center, Denver; commander, 17th Training Wing, Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas; director for manpower, personnel and support, U.S. Pacific Command, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii.

Pastimes: Yoga.

The Washington Post

riers to reporting. McClain said sexual assault investigations can often cause a stigma to victims, further isolating them and causing increasing psychological damage.

McClain said her efforts could cause more cases to be reported and investigated, but she thinks the military is prepared to handle the influx of cases.

"If you can prevent it, you don't have to worry about responding," McClain said. "That's our goal, to prevent it from happening. ... The hardest part is getting them to understand and change some attitudes. It is an educational effort just as it is in society."

Alleged rape victim AWOL

The Associated Press

CHERRY HILL, N.J. — A lieutenant in the New Jersey National Guard — sent home this year she was allegedly raped on a Mississippi base — has been declared absent without leave in an attempt to force her to return to her old unit, her lawyer charged.

Attorney Frederick Klepp said the Army has not responded to his proposal that the lieutenant be allowed to report to a New Jersey base to avoid prosecution. She would then begin the process of leaving the Guard, Klepp said.

The woman told The Oregonian newspaper she was an alleged attacker Aug. 8 at a bar at Camp Shelby, where she was stationed.

And McClain also is an officer in the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

She refused an invitation to his quarters and turned down his request to go home with her, she said. He persisted, she said, and followed her home and turned up in her room, where he allegedly raped her.

She said the Army initially did not want to grant her convalescent leave. A base chaplain, however, helped persuade authorities to let her return to her New Jersey home. Klepp said she has been in counseling.

"I completely do not trust anything military at this point," she told the newspaper.

But she has since learned that until she returns to her unit, she can be prosecuted in military court for being AWOL.

Capt. Brett Carter in the judge advocate general's office at Camp Shelby refused to comment to The Oregonian, which first reported the story Friday.

"She is being processed for being AWOL while the investigation continues," he said. "We're diligently working on it as quickly as we can."

Sniper competition teaches real-world techniques

BY ELLIOTT MINOR
The Associated Press

FORT BENNING, Ga. — Cpl. Eugenio Mendoza, a young veteran of the Iraq war, had to carry his buddy for 50 yards, scale an 8-foot wall and crawl through a water-logged tunnel at the 4th International Sniper Competition, where the challenges are designed to simulate combat scenarios in Afghanistan and Iraq.

"It's good stuff we never thought about," said Mendoza, 27, a sniper with the Army's 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Ky. "We're definitely going back and use what we've learned in these events."

Military snipers are skilled marksmen who are trained to kill key enemy targets

— usually with one shot over distances that would be considered impossible for regular soldiers armed with M-16 rifles.

Sponsored by the sniper school, the five-day competition that ended Friday is designed to test the marksmen's ability to fire at targets up to 800 meters away, to stalk and conceal themselves, to fire from a variety of positions after strenuous physical exertion and to quickly take on a villain holding hostages and then deliver a lethal shot.

The competitors included 18 Army and Air Force teams from as far away as Alaska and two teams from the Canadian Army.

Staff Sgt. Larry Davis, sergeant in charge of the competition, said the military is putting more emphasis on snipers.

"The leaders realize that we're the eyes and ears for them. A sniper team is like the perfect smart bomb," Davis said. "We're out front and, based on a command decision, we can take out the threat. And we're not firing a \$30 million airplane."

One of the new events added this year was firing from a helicopter. It proved to be a challenge for the shooters and the pilots, organizers said.

"All these are based on scenarios that are going on," said Sgt. 1st Lt. Frank Velez of the Army's Sniper School at Fort Benning. "This is not just about winning a trophy. It's sharing the knowledge. The end result is doing your job."

Snipers work in two-person teams consisting of the shooter, armed with a pistol

and an M-24 sniper rifle, and a spotter, armed with a pistol and a M-14 or M-16 rifle. The M-24 sniper rifle with a telescopic sight is a mid-range version of the 7.62 mm Remington 700 hunting rifle.

Mendoza's partner, Cpl. Nicholas Romero, another Iraq war veteran from the 101st Airborne, said the competition was challenging.

"I learned a lot from the other teams," said Romero, a Cocoa Beach, Fla., native.

Master Sgt. Cecil Lay, an Air Force sniper training supervisor from Camp Robinson, Ark., said the Air Force has stepped up its sniper training and now has two female snipers, a job traditionally reserved for men.

"With all the stuff going on in the war, the Air Force saw the need for the same training as the Army," Lay said.

Tuskegee Airmen fete 60th anniversary

WWII black pilots mark creation of advanced combat training program at S.C. base

BY BRUCE SMITH
The Associated Press

CHARLESTON, S.C. — In the era of Jim Crow — when the Army brass didn't think blacks were capable of flying — a group of minority pilots changed the way the military looked at race.

The Tuskegee Airmen, their ranks thinning as the World War II fighter pilots age, reunited Friday for a breakfast in Columbia, the first of several gatherings planned for the weekend.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the creation in 1944 of the advanced combat training program for the black airmen at a small Army Air Force base in Walterboro, S.C.

The program had started three years earlier in Tuskegee, Ala. In all, almost 1,000 pilots would be trained, 450 deployed overseas and 150 would lose their lives in training or combat.

The pilots deployed to North Africa and Europe flew support missions including strafing enemy ammunition dumps, rail lines and highways. Later, the airmen flew escort for bombers.

Including ground support personnel, there were about 14,000 Tuskegee Airmen, said 85-year-old Hiram E. Little Sr., a retired school teacher from Atlanta.

To the military, the program at first was simply "an experiment to prove the Negro could not fly any better," said Herbert Carter, of Tuskegee, who went on to a 25-year career in the military.

"We were just determined that



Karl Miller, left, of Manning, S.C., thanks Tuskegee Airman Leroy Bowman for his service to the United States at an air and ground show in Camden, S.C., on Friday. This year marks the 60th anniversary of the creation in 1944 of the Tuskegee Airman advanced combat training program at a base in Walterboro, S.C.

all we wanted was an opportunity," he says.

But even after the pilots of the first squadron were trained, the Army delayed deploying the unit for months.

"No commander from Burma to England wanted this all-black squadron," said Carter, 85. "They said it would create problems."

"They were firmly convinced no white personnel would take over

them. None of the bombers escorted by Tuskegee Airman fighters was lost during World War II, although 66 of the fighter pilots lost

their lives and 33 other fighter pilots were shot down and taken prisoner, Carter said.

At war's end, the airmen returned to a nation where little had changed.

"We were not so naive as to think America was going to change that much," he said.

"When we returned after V-E Day things were as biased and racist as they were before World

War II."

It wasn't until the late 1970s that the airmen began to receive recognition for what they had done.

Now, through conventions and meetings, the group wants to pass its story to future generations. People with an interest in the history and in getting young people involved in aviation can join the airmen.

"We're trying to bring new people in as we die there will be someone to keep the Tuskegee Airmen going for the future," Little said.

The reunion, which ran through Sunday, will include a breakfast, banquet and visits with school children in Columbia. The airmen will also appear at the Celebrate Freedom Festival air show in Camden, S.C.

Looking back, Carter says he feels sorry for those officers all these years ago who could not see beyond the color of a soldier's skin. He said he feels "pure pity for the people who are so biased and prejudiced in their ways that they can't accept a person on their own individual merits."

Little says the airmen helped open doors for those who followed.

"We are proud of the fact that maybe the record those pilots made overseas paved the way for the young people of all races who volunteer for military service," he said.

Admiral takes over helm of Northern Command

Keating vows to enhance national maritime security to prevent terror attack by sea

BY DAVID KELLY
Los Angeles Times

PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Colo. — Reflecting growing fears that a major terror attack could come by sea, a top U.S. naval officer officially took over the U.S. Northern Command Friday, vowing to enhance maritime security nationwide.

Adm. Timothy J. Keating, who is replacing retiring Air Force Gen. Ralph Eberhart, said terrorists think that America's ports are vulnerable.

"I hasn't received a lot of attention because of the way they came at us on Sept. 11," he told reporters. "It may not be our biggest vulnerability, but it might be the way that terrorists think they might best attack us."

NORTHCOM was established two years ago to coordinate homeland defense efforts alongside the North American Aerospace Defense Command, or NORAD, which patrols the skies daily with along with Canadian forces.

Keating took control of both commands in a solemn ceremony here Friday, attended by hun-

dreds of military personnel and dignitaries such as Deputy U.S. Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Richard Myers.

"The cold-blooded murder of 3,000 Americans and citizens of many other countries Sept. 11 put us once again in the middle of a war we didn't go looking for, a war that came to us," Wolfowitz said. "The defense of our homeland depends today on the work of Northern Command. This is a long, hard fight. But make no mistake, it's a fight we will win."

The secretary said NORTHCOM had been successful in keeping the country safe during events seen as potential terrorist

targets: two State of the Union addresses, two national political conventions, the G-8 Summit in Geor-

gia and the funeral of Ronald Reagan, along with other events.

Eberhart, a former fighter pilot who flew 300 combat missions in Vietnam, was lauded as a warrior and visionary. His work, Meyers said, had lowered the risk of nu-

clear, biological or chemical attack on America.

"Ed set the bar very high at NORTHCOM," he said. "Under his leadership, our nation is safer than it once was."

A few months ago, Eberhart warned that the next terror attack likely would come by sea because of porous security and the failure to ascertain the contents of the thousands of containers that flood into American ports daily.

In his farewell speech Friday, the general warned against complacency.

"What is important today is a future where we must not become apathetic," Eberhart said. "Every time we are tempted to close your eyes, see those twin towers

explode, see the scar on the Pentagon and that field in Pennsylvania."

The choice of a naval commander to run an operation dominated by Air Force officers reflects the new reality of terrorism that can come from air, land or sea.

Keating is a former Navy fighter pilot who made 1,200 landings on aircraft carriers and flew combat missions in Operation Desert Storm.

He also commanded forces in Bahrain, headed the U.S. 5th Fleet and served as director of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

After the ceremony, Keating said port security isn't as loose as some suggest.

"We have a formidable, layered defense in place that is active and effective right now," he said. "That's not to say we won't look at it carefully and make changes in the weeks and months ahead. There is a lot more going on right now than most of us know, and that's important. We want to make sure the terrorists understand that they can't hurt us there."



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Adm. Timothy J. Keating

New head of U.S. Northern Command

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IN THE WORLD

Mobs attack French targets in Ivory Coast

BY PARFAIT KOUASSI

The Associated Press

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast — Machete-wielding mobs looted and burned in Ivory Coast's largest cities Sunday, laying siege to a French military base and searching house to house for French families after a day of ground and air clashes between forces of France and its former colony.

Ivory Coast — Its tiny air force destroyed and its airports taken by the French in retaliation for a deadly airstrike on a French peacekeeping position — reluctantly said Sunday it was willing to cease fire and that it was pulling back troops.

The move aims to restore a cease-fire with rebels controlling the north that was in place for more than a year until government forces broke it on Thursday.

Still, the government took a defiant tone. Ivory Coast will ask the Security Council for action against France, presidential spokesman Desire Tagbo declared on state TV, adding, "We are faced with aggression by one country against another country. ... France has come to attack us."

France's punishing military strikes came in retaliation for the Ivory Coast air force's surprise bombing of a French peacekeeping position on Saturday in the north, held by rebels since civil war broke

out in the world's top cocoa producer in September 2002.

France has about 4,000 peacekeepers in Ivory Coast and the United Nations 6,000, trying to hold together a country vital to the stability of the region.

Saturday's airstrike killed nine French troops and an American consultant working for an aid group.

About 250 French troop reinforcements landed Sunday at Abidjan's international airport, which was taken by France late Saturday after it destroyed what it said was the entire Ivory Coast air force — five helicopter gunships and the two Russian-made Sukhoi warplanes.

The French retaliation sparked a wave of rioting by pro-government mobs in the capital Yamoussoukro and the country's biggest city, Abidjan.

France battled to hold back the mobs, dropping percussion grenades on mobs massing at bridges, the international airport and the military base in Abidjan, French military spokesman Henry Aussavay said.

Foreigners in general were under attack, including hundreds of thousands of immigrants from neighboring Muslim countries.

Pauline Bax, Nafi Diouf and Daniel Balint-Kurti of The Associated Press contributed to this report in Yamoussoukro, Dakar, Senegal, and Abuja, Nigeria, respectively.

Demands could ease for hostages' release

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Militants threatening to kill three kidnapped U.N. workers said they handed over a list Sunday of 26 prisoners, some of them possibly being held by the United States at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, who they would exchange for the foreign hostages.

A purported spokesman for the Taliban splinter group claiming to hold the trio also said it might remove its other demands, which include a U.N. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Talks with the militants could resume on Tuesday.

Neither the United Nations nor the government have confirmed any contact with the kidnappers, though Afghan officials insist they are making progress toward the hostages' release.

Another spokesman for the

Jaish-al Muslimin, or Army of Muslims, said it was represented in the talks by two businessmen acting as go-betweens.

Sadr Momin said the group was "hopeful that the government and the United Nations will accept some of our demands. It is likely that we may relax some of our conditions."

The kidnapping of Annetta Flanagan of Northern Ireland, Angelito Nayan of the Philippines and Shiphe Hebbi of Kosovo was the first against foreigners in Kabul since the fall of the Taliban in 2001.

The militants released a videotape of the hostages, fueling concern that they are copying the tactics of insurgents in Iraq.

The group says Flanagan is suffering under the strain of her captivity and that all three are ailing from cold and a diet of little more than cookies.

Macedonians vote on self-rule for Albanians

The Associated Press

SKOPJE, Macedonia — Macedonia's peace process was at a crossroads Sunday as voters cast ballots in a referendum on whether to grant local autonomy to the country's ethnic Albanians.

Voters were considering whether to annul a law that redraws districts in the Balkan republic and made the ethnic Albanians a dominant force in 16 out of 84 districts by effectively granting Albanians a large degree of self-rule.

The law was approved by parliament in August as part of a Western-brokered peace deal signed by the government and Albanian rebels three years ago.

But the measure has infuriated Macedonian hard-liners, who forced the referendum to try and block the reform.

They argue that allowing self-rule for the ethnic Albanians — who make up a quarter of Macedonia's 2 million people — would lead to the country's eventual breakup. The ethnic Albanians mostly live in western parts



A woman casts her referendum ballot Sunday in the village of Vevcani, Macedonia.

of the country, near the border with Albania.

Britain, France, neighboring Albania, as well as Macedonian Prime Minister Hari Kostov, have urged voters to boycott the referendum.



An official walks along a track Sunday as he inspects the wreckage of a derailed train near Newbury, England. An off-duty police officer saw a car drive onto a train crossing and remain there as automatic barriers came down. The train hit the car, killing six people, including the driver of the car.

Train hits car on crossing in England; six people die

BY MICHAEL McDONOUGH

The Associated Press

LONDON — Firefighters and police on Sunday searched the wreckage of a train crash that killed six people and seriously injured 11 others when a train struck a car stopped on the tracks at a crossing, 36 miles west of London.

The locomotive struck the car and derailed at about 6:30 p.m. Saturday, killing the train driver, the person in the car and four train passengers, Thames Valley Police said.

An off-duty police officer who happened to be in the area saw the car drive onto the crossing and remain there as automatic barriers blocking one lane on each side of the tracks fell, said Andy Trotter, Deputy Chief Constable of the British Transport Police.

The officer called for emergency services after seeing the train

hit the vehicle. Trotter gave no details about why the car was believed to have stopped on the crossing.

"You could feel it hit the car, breaking hard."

David White
Train passenger

Emergency workers had freed passengers trapped in the wreckage by 11:30 p.m. Saturday, said the fire service.

But firefighters and police with dogs searched the area until first light to ensure there were no non-casualties lying nearby, Trotter said.

Passenger David White, 48, described the crash.

"You could feel it hit the car, breaking hard," he said. "We knew something was happening

and the carriages plowed into each other." He said passengers were plunged into complete darkness with people "screaming and shouting on the floor" as tables fell on top of them.

It was the first major accident on Britain's rail network since 2002, when seven people died in a crash at the suburban Potters Bar station north of London. That crash and five other big train accidents killed 59 people over five years from 1997. Several of the crashes were blamed on poorly maintained tracks.

Thames Valley Police said at least eight carriages on the service from London Paddington to Plymouth in southwest England derailed and one was split in two by the force of the impact.

The train was carrying about 300 passengers. Some 80 people were treated at two hospitals for injuries, although many had only minor cuts and bruises, ambulance and hospital officials said.

Spokesman: Arafat still in intensive care

Israel completes plans for Palestinian leader's burial

BY LARA SUKHITIAN
The Associated Press

CLAMART, France — A senior aide to Yasser Arafat said early Sunday the ailing Palestinian leader was not comatose but still in intensive care, adding to the confusion about his fragile health.

"He is not in a coma," Arafat's spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, told reporters after coming out of the French military hospital where Arafat has been undergoing treatment for more than a week.

He refused to say if he had seen Arafat personally or to describe his condition further, other than it was stable.

"Right now he is sleeping," Abu Rdeneh said shortly after midnight.

On Friday, Leila Shahid, the Palestinian envoy to France, told French radio the 75-year-old Arafat was in a "reversible coma" and "at a critical point between life and death."

On Saturday, hospital spokesman Gen. Christian Estrépeur described Arafat's condition as identical to a day earlier, when he said there had been no change — for better or worse. The hospital has refused to elaborate, citing the family's wishes.

It was unclear early Sunday whether Arafat had emerged from a coma or had never been in one — as other Palestinian officials have insisted.

Abu Rdeneh said Arafat had undergone further medical tests and that results were expected within days.

"He is still in the intensive care unit," Abu Rdeneh said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ahmed Qureia, in a bid to preserve calm, made a rare visit to the Gaza Strip for talks with rival Palestinian groups.

Qureia met for four hours with representatives of the 13 major Palestinian factions, including Hamas and Islamic Jihad, as well as security chiefs, lawmakers and officials of Arafat's Fatah faction. Such a broad gathering is extremely rare.

He was accompanied by Parliament Speaker Rauli Fattouh, who would step in as a caretaker president of the Palestinian Authority when Arafat dies.

Arafat fell ill nearly a month ago with symptoms of vomiting and diarrhea. He was airlifted to France from his West Bank compound in Ramallah a week ago after briefly passing out. On Wednesday, his condition deteriorated and he was moved to an intensive care unit.

Meanwhile, Israel has completed preparations for the ailing Yasser Arafat to be buried in the Gaza Strip, outlining plans to allow West Bank Palestinians to cross through Israel for the funeral and permitting enemy Arab leaders to attend, security officials said Sunday.

The decision, announced by Defense Minister Shaul Mofaz in a Cabinet meeting, was the latest development in the battle over Arafat's burial. With the Palestinian leader's condition increasingly dire, where to bury him has become a sensitive issue.

Palestinian officials have said Arafat wants to be buried in Jerusalem. Israel rejects that demand, citing security concerns and fearing it would strengthen Palestinian claims to the traditionally Arab sector of the city as a future capital.

Israeli officials have suggested Gaza as an alternative, but say they will consider Palestinian wishes for burial elsewhere. They said they had not been contacted by the Palestinians.

Palestinian Cabinet minister Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said it is inappropriate to discuss the burial issue while Arafat is alive. "I think it's not for the Israelis to decide and I would urge the Israelis to show some sensitivity," Erekat said.



Moroccan-born Badrane Lahach places a candle Sunday at the makeshift shrine for ailing Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in front of the Percy Military Teaching hospital in Clamart, France, outside Paris. Arafat is in intensive care at the hospital.

Russians mark Revolution Day with ceremonies

BY MARA D. BELLABY
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russians marked the anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution on Sunday with mass communist rallies and protests against a parliamentary proposal to scrap what was once the most sacred Soviet holiday.

Some pro-Kremlin lawmakers have proposed replacing the Nov. 7 holiday with a new holiday on Nov. 4 to be called National Unity Day. Russia's lower house of parliament, the State Duma, is expected to consider the measure Wednesday in the first of three required votes.

"This day was and will be a landmark event, and its celebration cannot be abolished," Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov said, according to the ITAR-Tass news agency. "People suffered for this holiday, and no one has the right to trample on our history."

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, former President Boris Yeltsin also wanted to scrap the holiday. In a compromise, it was preserved but renamed the Day of Accord and Reconciliation.

At least 8,000 Communist Party backers and members of the ultra-nationalist National Bolshevik party gathered Sunday at a square that used to be named after Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin and marched across Moscow toward a statue of Karl Marx. They carried the Soviet hammer-and-sickle flag, a giant portrait of Lenin and banners such as "U.S.S.R. — our Homeland," and sang Soviet-era songs.

Criticism of Vladimir Putin's government, changes to social benefits and complaints about inequality dominated the speeches.

But some also chanted, "America, hands off Lukashenko!" a show of support for the authoritarian leader of neighboring Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, who has resurrected Soviet-era symbols and institutions and honored now disgraced Soviet-era officials. The United States has accused Lukashenko of human rights violations and threatened Belarus with sanctions.

In Red Square, aging veterans wearing long, belted World War II military coats marched in formation, reciting the steps they took in 1941 when Soviets defiantly celebrated Revolution Day in spite of the Nazi forces massed about 33 miles outside Moscow.



Russian veterans, wearing World War II military coats, lay flowers Sunday at the Tomb of Unknown Soldiers before a parade in Red Square in Moscow. Aging veterans marched along the Red Square to mark the 63rd anniversary of a parade of Soviet troops heading off to the front in 1941, when the Nazi forces massed about 33 miles outside Moscow.

Protesters from the Communist Party and other left-wing groups in the Siberian city of Tomsk carried posters reading, "Hands Off Nov. 7!" The Interfax news agency reported. In the Far Eastern Russian city of Khabarovsk, about 600 people gathered in the main Lenin square to sing Internationale, the socialist revolutionary anthem, the ITAR-Tass said.

About 1,000 Ukrainians also marked the Soviet holiday, but some bystanders were cynical. "Those who make revolutions don't like our way," said Oksana Levina, a businesswoman in Kiev. "The principle of equality kills all initiative."

Saudi opposition seeking 'comprehensive change'

BY NADIA ABU EL-MAGD
The Associated Press

CAIRO, Egypt — Thousands of Saudis are planning illegal protests this month in Riyadh and Jeddah to call for political and social change within their conservative Kingdom, an exiled Saudi dissident said Saturday.

Saad Al-Fagih, director of the UK-based Movement for Islamic Reform in Arabia, said in a telephone interview from London that he and his supporters have begun preparing for protests slated between Nov. 20 and 30.

Authorities in oil-rich Saudi Arabia have little tolerance for dissent and arrested hundreds of protesters following the last pro-democracy rally in the country, which was held in October 2003 and organized by al-Fagih's movement, which runs opposition TV and radio stations out of Europe.

Al-Fagih and other Saudi re-

formists want a liberal, moderate system of government to replace the ruling House of Saud royal family, which holds absolute rule and governs its citizens based on strict Islamic law.

"Saudis want comprehensive change from the status quo," he said. "The leadership has to be transparent and the judiciary has to be independent. The main demand of the people is to change the ruling regime."

Al-Fagih predicted that between 40,000 and 50,000 people would take part in this month's planned protests, but the likelihood of anti-government demonstrations of such proportions being held in hard-line Saudi Arabia are extremely slim.

The Saudi royal family has absolute power and few dare to challenge it or the law banning public protests. Saudis cannot hold public gatherings to discuss political or social issues and press freedoms are limited.

Hezbollah says it launched its first reconnaissance drone over Israel

The Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Hezbollah sent its first reconnaissance drone into Israeli territory Sunday — flying over Jewish settlements — in response to repeated Israeli violations of Lebanese airspace, the militant Islamic group announced.

In a statement faxed to The Associated Press, Hezbollah said a reconnaissance drone of the Islamic resistance, the group's military wing, carried out its first flights over "occupied northern Palestine, flying over several Zi-

onist settlements, reaching the coastal settlement of Nahariya and returning safely to its base."

Such a flight was believed to be the first hostile aerial incursion by Hezbollah, a group of guerrillas since Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command members sailed over in 1987 on a hang glider and killed six soldiers before being shot down.

The Israeli army confirmed that a Hezbollah drone, which Israel claimed was Iranian-made, penetrated Israeli airspace Sunday morning and flew over western Galilee.

OPINION

Message sent: Democrats lack messenger

In the end this was as it began — an election that essentially was a referendum on the administration of George W. Bush, with John Kerry at times almost incidental to the process.

So now Democrats, without the coalition that kept them in the congressional majority for much of the last two-thirds of the past century, must once again search for a message that, as former Senate Democratic leader George Mitchell put it, will restore their identity as a national party. It will be a daunting task requiring an abandonment of outmoded concepts that have afflicted their leaders and, even more importantly, their political strategists.

If nothing else, this election showed that the nation's conservative stripe has not faded since Ronald Reagan and that, even during these times of terrorism and warfare, social issues are a driving force for many voters — that abortion and gay marriage are concerns that coalesce in the Republican base, just as economic considerations and liberal causes did for Roosevelt, Truman and Kennedy Democrats.

By all historical measurement, the large turnout should not have favored the incumbent, especially in the midst of a war that polls show an increasing number of Americans think was a bad idea. ... Kerry just had to show up, be acceptable and not make any major mistakes. The youth vote, fed by fears

of a new military draft and led by iconic rock stars; women who opposed the president's anti-abortion stance, and the blue-collar work force faced with the prospect of steadily declining visibility should know whom the polls for him, according to the prognosis, offsetting the evangelicals with their 19th century ideals.

But the results were something else. The 18-to-44 voters, as many political experts privately feared, acted pretty much as they always have — they didn't show up. Ironically, many of those who did were far more conservative than their '60s predecessors.

Instead, the "value" voters overwrought about Kerry's liberal Senate record and party positions on social issues were the ones who did, producing record numbers at polling places almost everywhere. There always was a feeling the pollsters were missing a crucial bloc of the electorate, the white, lower-middle-income voter whose concerns about the loss of jobs was superseded only by their fear that someone would take away their firearms or convince their daughter to terminate a pregnancy. It became real.

Party leaders also believed that they could overcome Kerry's considerable lack of charisma and his past ambivalence on national issues. His patriotic New England upbringing — while potentially off-putting in Middle America — would be displaced, strategists believed, by voter concerns over traditional issues such as the deficit and growing U.S. isolation from the rest of the world.

Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin said it otherwise, contending that while Kerry's mouth said one thing, value-oriented voters were his heart resting place. ... His rhetoric on things that mattered to them. With Bill Clinton it had been just the opposite. His much humbler upbringing, South-



ern charm and obvious like of people were in sharp contrast to Kerry's stilted, frequently sonorous pronouncements. ... Clinton's abbreviated campaigning for Kerry probably was more a detriment than a help to the nominee because it merely highlighted Kerry's failure to connect, reminding voters what they were missing.

All this leaves Democrats struggling to find a new means of defining themselves. Hanging lost the White House twice, Congress for 12 years and most of the statehouses, it should be obvious by now that Roosevelt liberalism isn't the answer, "stu-

pid." This is a party sorely in need of someone ... who understands that this is basically a moderate, mainstream electorate not willing to stray far to the right or the left. ...

Recapitulating the campaign of 2004, ... historians are likely to say that the incumbent stayed on message, not swerving throughout an arduous campaign, and remained faithful to his core beliefs and those of his base, right or wrong. Qualities Americans like. In the end, his former message carried the referendum.

Dan Thomasson is contributor editor of the Scripps Howard News Service.

Nations must reassess now that Bush has new term

Where demonstrated at the polls that America is still the land of Lincoln, even if Illinois no longer may be. Not since 1864 has the outcome of a war depended on how we

Jack Kelly



voted. In 1864, military victory Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman's capture of Atlanta — pre-saged political victory. Without that battlefied triumph to buoy spirits, President Lincoln almost certainly would have been defeated. ... as a war-weary North likely would have preferred dissolution of the Union to continued conflict.

In 2004, political victory presages military victory. The most immediate losers abroad are the terrorist thugs in Fallujah, who are about to have the hammer fall on them.

The hammer would have dropped on Fallujah in any event — Bush would have been president until January even if Kerry had won — but now al-Qaida and the Baathist remnants in the renegade town know they are going to die in vain. There will be after January, no rest, no respite, no sanctuary from President Bush's relentless pursuit.

Another loser is Osama bin Laden. He was reduced to trying to influence our election with a videotape, apparently because his network was unable to pull off here the kind of terrorist atrocities that influenced the Spanish election.

There has been no successful terrorist attack on American soil since Sept. 11, 2001. I'm not at all certain that would have been the case if Al Gore or John Kerry were president.

"People are telling you [this] will be the

most important election of our lives," wrote former Air Force pilot and Web loger Bill Whittle, a Gore supporter in 2000, a few days before the vote. "That is not true. The most important election of your lives was held on Tuesday, Nov. 7th, 2000. You just didn't know it. Neither did I.

"What happened on that day led to one man being in the White House these last four years, rather than the other one," Whittle said. "George W. Bush was commander in chief when we needed him most."

The war on terror is likely to outlast a second Bush term. But the president can now put us far enough down the path to victory that no future Democratic president would want — or be able — to deflect us from it.

Now that it is clear that this tough, determined man will be in the White House for four more years, backed by a majority of the American people and solid majorities in

both houses of Congress, those abroad who strew obstacles in our path are undergoing what pundits call "agonizing reassessment."

Booied by Kerry's promise to reopen the kind of bilateral negotiations under which the Clinton administration gave financial aid to North Korea to not develop nuclear weapons, while permitting North Korea to continue its weapons program in secret, North Korea walked out of six-party talks with the United States, South Korea, Japan, Russia and China, and escalated its anti-American rhetoric.

But North Korea is likely to return to six-party talks on its nuclear programs now that the U.S. presidential election is over, South Korean foreign minister Ban Ki-moon said, according to a South Korean news agency.

European nations that tried to hobble our efforts in Iraq are striving to get back in our

good graces: "I hope your second term will provide an opportunity to reinforce the Franco-American friendship," French President Jacques Chirac wrote in a letter to Bush.

The leaders of Spain and Germany and the president of the European Union were also hastening to make nice.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said he "felt joy" at Bush's re-election.

"International terrorism gave itself the goal of not allowing the re-election of President Bush," Putin said. "Our relations in the last four years have undergone a big change, for the good of our peoples. ... [Bush] is a reliable and predictable partner. He has proven to be a firm man, with a strong character, and a coherent policy."

Jack Kelly is the national affairs writer for the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and the Toledo (Ohio) Blade. A former Marine and Green Beret, he was a deputy assistant secretary of the Air Force in the Reagan administration. His column appears weekly in Stars and Stripes.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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IN THE STATES

Rove: Bush nominees to get fair hearings

BY JENNIFER C. KERR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House expressed confidence Sunday that President Bush's judicial nominees will get a fair hearing in the Senate, despite comments from Republican Sen. Arlen Specter that anti-abortion judges were unlikely to be confirmed by the newly elected Senate.

Chief political adviser Karl Rove said Specter, in line to head the Senate Judiciary Committee, has assured the president that he would make certain that every one of Bush's nominees receives a prompt hearing and an up-or-down vote by the full Senate.

"Senator Specter's a man of his word," Rove told Fox News Sunday. "We'll take him at his word."

The Pennsylvania lawmaker is next in line to chair the Senate Judiciary Committee, which would oversee Bush's judicial selections, including any Supreme Court nominations. Last week, Specter told reporters that "judges who would change the right of a woman to choose, overturn Roe v. Wade" probably would face problems in the Senate.

Specter said Bush has had trouble getting some of his nominees through the Senate because of Democratic filibusters. He added: "I would expect the president to be mindful of the considerations which I am mentioning."

Filibusters, a bill-killing tactic of unlimited debate, remain possible in the Senate elected last week, because the Republicans' 55-45 majority falls five votes short of the 60 needed to cut off debate.

Specter's comments on the question came a day after he won re-election in Pennsylvania in a tight race in which the president campaigned for him. The remarks outraged conservative groups such as Concerned Women for America, which sent a letter to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist urging him to prevent Specter from taking the chairmanship.

Specter backtracked the next day, saying he wasn't warning Bush not to make those kinds of choices. His meaning, Specter said, was that "in light of the repeated filibusters by the Democrats in the last Senate session, I am concerned about a potential repetition of such filibusters."

With Chief Justice William Rehnquist ailing from thyroid cancer, there has been much speculation about whether the president soon may choose a new Supreme Court justice. As head of the Judiciary Committee, Specter would have wide latitude to schedule hearings, state committee votes and make the process as easy or as hard as he wants.



White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, left, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, center, and senior adviser Karl Rove wait for President Bush to arrive to hold a news conference Thursday in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building in Washington. Sunday, Rove told Fox that Sen. Arlen Specter, who is in line to head the Senate Judiciary Committee, assured him Bush's judicial nominees will get prompt hearings in the Senate.

Blair to visit Bush this week

BY JENNIFER LOVEN

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush's first postelection meeting with a foreign leader comes this week when Prime Minister Tony Blair of Britain, a staunch ally on Iraq, is due for two days of discussions at the White House.

Blair will be in Washington on Thursday and Friday for meetings to chart the way forward on a range of issues including terrorism and Iraq, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said.

McClellan said the meeting is part of Bush's intention to reach out to allies in Europe and NATO "to promote development and progress, to defeat the terrorists and to encourage freedom and democracy as alternatives to tyranny and terror."

"The president looks forward to discussing with Prime Minister Blair how to strengthen further U.S. cooperation with the United Kingdom and all of Europe, as we address together the many challenges our nations face at the beginning of the 21st century," McClellan said.

Busy with his re-election campaign, Bush has not welcomed a foreign leader to the White House since August, when he was host to the interim prime minister of

Iraq, Ayad Allawi. Bush and Blair's last meeting was during a NATO summit in Istanbul, Turkey, in June, but they talk by phone almost weekly.

Blair, in supporting the U.S.-led war in Iraq, has defied public opinion at home and in many European capitals. It is widely assumed in Britain that Blair's support for Bush's Iraq policy came in return for a pledge that the Bush administration would push harder for peace between Israel and the Palestinians.

The day after Bush's re-election victory, Blair tried to nudge his ally forward by declaring that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is the world's "single most pressing political challenge."

Although White House aides have said they see a new opening for Middle East peace in Bush's second term, the president did not fully embrace Blair's assessment. "I agree that what the Middle East needs is a very important part of a peaceful world," Bush said in a Thursday news conference.

Another item sure to be on the Oval Office agenda are the Iraqi elections, scheduled for January, and the continuing deadly insurgency there. U.S. forces are gearing up for an expected offensive in Fallujah, the insurgents' strongest bastion.

Postwar Iraq policy chief to step down

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The White House's director of postwar policy for Iraq, who was instrumental in helping to set up an interim government to lead that country until elections can be held, is stepping down.

Robert Blackwill, a former ambassador to India, has overseen Iraq strategy at the National Security Council since mid-2003. He decided "some time ago" to depart government service after the presidential election, a White House official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said Saturday.

It was the second report in two days of a ranking official's decision to leave the Bush administration's national security establishment.

On Friday, the State Department confirmed the impending departure of J. Cofer Black, the department's chief counterterrorism figure. Like Blackwill, the former CIA operations officer had told superiors he planned to leave after the elections, and department spokesman Adam Erelis said he will end his 30-year government career in a matter of weeks.

Blackwill's absence will shorten the list of people reputed to be in the running to replace Condoleezza Rice as President Bush's national security adviser. Rice has told associates she will not stay in the post in the second Bush term and has talked about returning to academia in California. She was a former provost at Stanford University and was a political science professor when Bush hired her.

Blackwill, whose formal title is coordinator for strategic planning on the NSC, spent months slipping in and out of Baghdad to put a U.S. stamp on a caretaker government in Iraq. The career diplomat was on the short list to become ambassador to Iraq in the spring, but Bush instead chose John Negroponte, former ambassador to the United Nations.

The White House would not comment on any impact of his departure on preparations for the Iraqi elections, scheduled in January, less than three months from now.

CDC: Over-the-counter drug sales can help track flu

BY DIETRA HENDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Sales of over-the-counter drugs taken to treat the flu may help the government learn more quickly about local outbreaks.

The government now receives figures representing 80 percent of the sales of remedies for cold symptoms and diarrhea, for example, in an effort to spot disease trends.

A sudden spike in sales of those products "might be a hint that flu is coming," the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters Sunday.

"It's a clue. And we don't know if it's going to be a useful clue or not," Dr. Julie Gerberding said during the American Public Health Association's annual meeting.

The experiment comes as the United States struggles with a shortage of flu vaccine caused by contamination problems at a Chiron Corp. plant in Britain, where 48 million doses destined for the United States were quarantined.

Through increased production at other plants, the government has obtained more than 60 million doses of vaccine. U.S. officials had hoped to supply 100 million doses this year.

Food and Drug Administration inspectors are visiting plants in Germany and Canada in pursuit of more flu vaccine.

When the crisis first began, Gerberding said she told her team she wanted three things:

- Breakdowns, by county, where flu was spreading. The drug sales may help give an earlier glimpse than waiting for hospital visits to fill with the sickest patients.

- Where vaccine arrived, by county.

- Areas where sick people needed vaccine but supplies had not arrived.

The flu season appears to be starting slowly this year, Gerberding said.

Several states are reporting a few cases, including Texas and two New York nursing homes. Many states, however, have not recorded a single flu case. Not one is reporting widespread flu activity.

"We're not getting off to a fast start," she said, adding that that did not mean this year's season would remain light.

As most people scramble for scarce doses of flu vaccine, the nation's top public health agency has another worry: bird flu, which Gerberding says people are not particularly focused on.

Her agency is monitoring the spread of avian flu in Asia as it continues to leap from animals to humans, to gauge whether the strain is evolving.

The CDC, however, will not safeguard its supply of antivirals most effective against avian flu.

Of 40 million doses of antivirals available this year to treat regular flu — reducing sickness among those infected and protecting the healthy — 7 million are in the CDC stockpile.

Gerberding said the antiviral treatment that has proved best at protecting against avian flu would be used to treat regular flu if the need arose.

Border Patrol numbers don't add up

Activists question varied counting of dead migrants crossing into U.S.

BY ANDREA ALMOND
The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO — Flying low over the Sonoran Desert, Border Patrol agents spotted a skeleton sprawled in the brush.

The harsh terrain along the southern edge of Arizona is a busy trafficking corridor for illegal immigrants and the remains could have been from a person who died while trying to sneak into the United States. But busy Interstate 8 runs nearby and it also could have been a slain U.S. citizen, a suicide, a runaway.

The Border Patrol is facing criticism for the way it counts the dead along the 2,000-mile U.S.-Mexico border.

"It's rarely a cut-and-dry decision," said Joe Brigman, spokesman for the Border Patrol station at Yuma, Ariz. "In some cases, you just don't know."

The agency says its increased vigilance has helped reduce deaths among illegal immigrants.

Human rights activists, however, say it's in the government's interest to keep its count low. They contend the agency tries to shade the number of deaths by excluding many skeletal remains, car-crash victims and bodies discovered by local law enforcement agencies.

"The American people have the right to know the human cost, the human cost of these policies," says Claudia Smith, a San



Marchers carry a casket last month along a section of the U.S.-Mexico border fence in Tijuana, Mexico, to mark the 10th anniversary of the U.S. border enforcement program Operation Gatekeeper. Migrants' rights groups contend the U.S. Border Patrol has tried to shave its count by excluding from its total many skeletal remains, car-crash deaths and bodies discovered by local law enforcement agencies.

Diego attorney with the California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation.

From documents and other clues found on the body spotted east of Yuma, agents concluded the remains indeed belong to an immigrant — among 325 the Border Patrol counted in the fiscal year which ended Sept. 30, down from 340 the year before.

Smith, who has tracked migrant deaths for 10 years, says the counting method is inconsistent from one government agency to the next — and sometimes even

from one Border Patrol sector to another.

For instance, in Arizona, the busiest stretch for illegal entries, the Border Patrol reported a record 177 deaths in fiscal 2004. But medical examiner's offices in Arizona put the toll at around 221.

Location also affects the count. Smith points to the case of 19 people found dead in a stifling truck trailer near Victoria, Texas, in 2003. It was the deadliest immigrant-smuggling attempt in the United States in more than 15 years, but the deaths were not in-

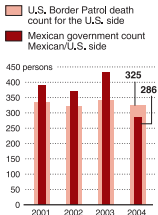
cluded in Border Patrol statistics, officials say, because the victims were too far from the border.

The agency's count typically includes people found only in 43 U.S. counties that are within a 100-mile-wide belt along the border with Mexico.

Border Patrol officials bristle at the allegation they are undercounting deaths. "We are very interested in knowing about any death discovered along the border," said Mario Villareal, a Washington-based spokesman for Customs and Border Protection.

Migrant deaths

Border Patrol's increased vigilance in counting dead illegal immigrants found along the U.S.-Mexico border has helped to reduce deaths. Human rights activists say its in their best interests to keep the number low.



SOURCES: Customs and Borders Protection; Mexico Foreign Affairs Ministry

The agency also only counts deaths of migrants found on the U.S. side of the border. Mexico tracks fatalities on either side of the border, but only those of Mexican nationals.

In 2004, Mexico counted 286 such deaths. In each of the previous three years, Mexico's death toll was higher than the total kept by the Border Patrol.

Some activists are calling for an independent agency to take charge of counting the dead. "We're entitled to know the human cost of these (border control) programs," said the Rev. Robin Hoover, founder of Humane Borders, an organization that has set up water stations in the Sonoran desert for border crossers. "How can we possibly devise proper public policies if we cannot have an accurate body count?"

Protest death? Man kills self at ground zero after election

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A 25-year-old from Georgia who was apparently distressed over President Bush's re-election shot and killed himself at ground zero.

Andrew Veal's body was found Saturday morning inside the off-limits site, said Steve Coleman, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. A shotgun was found nearby, but no suicide note was found, Coleman said.

Veal's mother said her son was upset about the result of the presidential election and had driven to New York, Gus Danese, president of the Port Authority Police Benevolent Association, told The New York Times in Sunday's editions.

Friends said Veal worked in a computer lab at the University of Georgia and was planning to marry.

"I'm absolutely sure it's a protest," Mary Anne Mauney, Veal's supervisor at the lab, told The Daily News. "I don't know what made him commit suicide, but where he did it was symbolic."

Gay-themed T-shirts stir debate in Missouri town

BY STEVE ROCK

Knight Ridder Newspapers

WEBB CITY, Mo. — Whether the townsfolk know it or not, Webb City, in the southwest corner of Missouri, has become a battleground in the gay rights movement.

The debate hasn't yet reached front-runner status at such places as the Bradbury Bishop Dell on the downtown square. Scores of locals know very little or nothing about it.

Twice in the last two weeks, Brad Mathewson, a junior at Webb City High School, was instructed by school officials to change T-shirts that bore gay rights themes. The first of the two incidents prompted Mathewson to contact the American Civil Liberties Union.

Now the ACLU is actively involved. The organization has engaged a local lawyer, shipped out news releases en masse and met with school officials.

Mathewson said he had been contacted by representatives of "Good Morning America," although a spokesman for the TV show would neither confirm nor deny that.

Anti-gay preacher Fred Phelps is promising to make an appearance in Webb City this month. School district officials said enforcing the school's strict dress code wasn't about gay rights or free speech. They said it was about preserving a positive, structured learning environment.

"If disruption comes for whatever reason, you try to bridle that," district superin-

tendent Ron Linkford said.

So divided are the two sides that Mathewson missed a week of school. Mathewson called it a suspension, but school officials declined to specifically discuss his situation.

For now, Mathewson is back in class. He returned Tuesday after the ACLU's lawyer conferred with school officials. Mathewson has been instructed by school officials not to wear any gay-themed attire but instead to blend in with the other 1,000 or so students at the high school.

Mathewson, 16, said he wasn't sure he wants to make that commitment. He said school officials told him that the shirts might offend other students, that they could be disruptive, that they could even leave him in danger of being beaten up by intolerant classmates.

Mathewson doesn't buy any of it, at least not the latter two reasons. And if the shirts are offensive to others, well, that's too bad.

So the battle forges on. Chris Hampton, a public education associate for the ACLU, called the school's actions "viewpoint-based censorship." She

disputes the superintendent's suggestions that the ACLU is really wanting only to embarrass the high school.

It started Oct. 20 when Mathewson, who had recently moved to town from Fayetteville, Ark., went to school wearing a shirt from his previous school that had the words "FIST

and a straight supportive of gay rights. "They told me to change it, turn it inside out or go home," Mathewson said.

He initially turned it inside out, then decided to leave school and talk with his mother. He was upset, and he didn't think the school was within its rights. Eventually, he called a teacher from his previous school and asked for advice.

The teacher told him to contact the ACLU. About a week later, using markers and a bit of vengeance, he scrawled the words "I'm gay, and I'm proud" on a plain T-shirt and wore it to school.

School officials approached him again and told him he couldn't wear the shirt. He left school again.

Twice in the last two weeks, Brad Mathewson, a junior at Webb City High School, was instructed by school officials to change T-shirts that bore gay rights themes. Now, the ACLU is actively involved.

Scholarly royals

WA SEATTLE — There's no more homecoming king and queen at the University of Washington, just royals.

The student group that organizes the annual campus festival has decided that gender should not play a role in the honor. The pair being presented are Emi Nomura Sumida, 20, of Seattle, and Gloria Cho, 19, of Bainbridge Island, who got the top scores in a scholarship contest.

The two women had not met before they were crowned at a private reception.

The Associated Students of the University of Washington broke from tradition last year in awarding the two \$1,000 scholarships funded by the school's alumni association, but no one noticed because they went to a man and a woman.

Girl left with slain mom

NY NEW YORK — A 2-year-old girl survived four days in a parked sport utility vehicle with the body of her slain mother, police said.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said authorities were investigating the apparent mishandling of a 911 call that could have led to the rescue of Rosie Batista a day earlier.

The little girl, who had been strapped into a child's seat, was hospitalized for dehydration and was in stable condition.

Leonardo Almonte, 32, was arrested on murder, kidnapping and reckless endangerment charges.

Investigators said they believe Almonte killed Colon by throwing her to the floor and choking her during an argument at their Queens home. He allegedly dumped her body in the passenger seat of a SUV, placed the child in the back seat and drove to a remote street about a mile away.

Mentally unfit ruling

CA SANTA BARBARA — A judge ruled that the man accused of being the Highway 101 sniper is mentally unfit to stand trial.

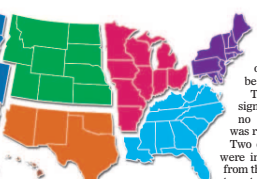
Keith Tomlinson, 36, was ordered to a state mental hospital until he's deemed competent to face seven counts of attempted murder and 12 counts of assault with a deadly weapon. Tomlinson allegedly fired at trucks and hurled big rocks at passing vehicles on five days in December 2003 and March 2004.

Police: Fake money used

WI WEST BEND — Four teens used funny money for fast food, taxis and other purchases before they were caught and charged with forgery for printing the fake funds on a home computer, police said.

Police Sgt. Gus Unerst said three 14-year-old boys and a 15-year-old boy were caught after some merchants noticed the \$5 bills were fake.

Unerst said authorities filed state charges of forgery instead of seeking federal counterfeiting charges because of the ages and because of the small denomination of the bills.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Washington County juvenile authorities will recommend whether the boys will face a delinquency hearing. The four have been released to custody of their parents.

Man charged with con

MA SPRINGFIELD — A man accused of conning Springfield women with promises to help them get funding for community projects pleaded innocent and was ordered held on \$50,000 bail.

In one alleged scam, Richard W. Duff approached Sheila Shepard, whose twin sons were gunned down in street violence this summer, saying he could win her more than \$1 million in grant funding to start a youth center dedicated to her sons if she paid him \$850.

Shepard and others spoke about the alleged scam at a news conference following Duff's arraignment in Springfield District Court, where he pleaded innocent to two counts of larceny over \$250 and one count each of larceny of less than \$250 and larceny by false pretenses.

His lawyer, Scott Skolnick, said Duff denies any wrongdoing and was paid for writing grant applications.

Ship collision

TX GALVESTON — A 355-foot freighter with a crew of 16 Russians slammed into an unmanned natural gas platform about 17 miles off the Coast of

Galveston in the Gulf of Mexico, the Coast Guard said.

A fire that broke out on the platform could be seen from shore.

The platform sustained significant damage, but no injuries or pollution was reported.

Two offshore supply boats were in the area and crews from those vessels were able to put out the flames on the lower decks of the platform, owned by Houston-based EOG Resources Inc., the Coast Guard said.

The ship, the SCM Athina, has superstructure damage and scrapes to its hull. It was directed to an anchorage where authorities were interviewing the crew.

Sex assault charges

NH CONCORD — A former juvenile probation officer for the state faces five separate trials on charges he sexually assaulted the same 10-year-old girl five times.

Rodney Martinez, 47, of Laconia was indicted by a Belknap County grand jury earlier this year on three counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault and two counts of felonious sexual assault.

According to court records, he molested the girl when she came over to take care of and play with Martinez's own children. A year ago, Martinez's wife came home early and found her husband and the girl on the bed in her bedroom. She told the girl's mother, who contacted police.

The girl told authorities Martinez had lured her into the bedroom and touched her sexually several times between January 2002 and October 2003 — three times on her genitals and twice on her breasts.

Crevasse rescue

OR GOVERNMENT CAMP — Two climbers on Mount Hood fell into a crevasse, killing one and injuring the other, authorities said.

The surviving climber, who suffered a broken arm and broken ribs, used a cell phone to call for help, and rescuers hiked to the crevasse near Sandy Glacier, said Detective Jim Strovink, spokesman for the Clackamas County sheriff's office.

Later a National Guard helicopter lowered a medical team to the 8,500-foot level of Mount Hood, where they treated the surviving climber, Shaun Olcott, 37, before taking him to a Portland hospital. He was listed in stable condition.

The other climber, Kenny Kaskelder, 37, suffered head and back injuries and died at the scene.

State tuition hike

CT HARTFORD — Trustees for the Connecticut State University system approved tuition and fee increases of nearly 6 percent for next fall. The proposal raises the annual cost of attending one of the four branches of Connecticut State University by \$324 for an in-state student. CSU officials said that in addition to expanding some programs, the increased funding would also be used at all four campuses to cover higher utility, library and labor costs.



Protective mom

A 6-month-old male Sumatran tiger cub rests under his mother Soyo's careful watch at the National Zoo in Washington.



And the band plays on ...

The East Tennessee University band performs during homecoming festivities at the amphitheater in Johnson City, Tenn.



Sea of colors

A maple tree provides a brilliant backdrop as Jose Alvarez clears leaves in Vacaville, Calif.



Line maintenance

Road and Signage crew member Michael Taylor paints over a crosswalk in Atlantic City, N.J.



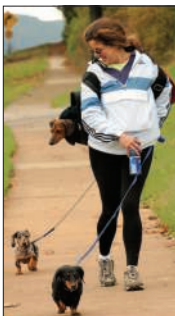
Serene bike ride

A lone biker makes his way up Monument Road in the Colorado National Monument near Grand Junction, Colo.



Shooting at the sky

Central Junior High photography student Amelia Firms-Hubert aims her camera lens skyward in Lawrence, Kan.



Time for walkies

Mary Romer of Huntsville, Ala., walks three dachshunds, Von Braun (in backpack), Patches and Smokey, in Huntsville, Ala.



Mouthwatering billboard

Workers use a lift to put up a railing for a billboard display over an advertisement for glazed donuts in Cincinnati.

Contractor gets 1 year

RI PROVIDENCE — A Smithfield contractor has been sentenced to a year in prison for scamming households out of money for work he never performed.

Albert Steven Perreault, 38, had been accused of scamming several households in Rhode Island and Massachusetts out of thousands of dollars. One project involved a \$10,000 dollar job at an apartment building in Providence's Silver Lake neighborhood.

Perreault got a contractor's license in 1993, and created his business, Total Roofing and Home Improvement. In October 2000, the contractors' license board suspended Perreault's license after it received numerous complaints from homeowners. Perreault ignored the suspension and continued to seek work under his company's name. In September, the board formally revoked his license.

A month later, Perreault turned himself in to the police in Raynham, Mass., where he was wanted on a felony charge of larceny by false pretenses.

Beach reconstruction

AL ORANGE BEACH — Contractors were announced for a \$24.2 million project to pump sand washed offshore back onto Alabama's beaches and restore coastal grasses lost during Hurricane Ivan.

Starting in January, crews from New Orleans-based Bean-Stuyvesant LLC will work to extend the beach about 200 feet. The project is planned to start at Perdido Key on the Florida border and move west. Gulf Shores Public Works Director Chuck Hamilton said the last stretch of West Beach could be renourished by Aug. 2005.

Judge loses twice

IL SPRINGFIELD — Election Day was doubly unkind to Judge Gordon Maag. The Democrat lost a race for the Supreme Court to Republican Lloyd Karmeier. Maag also lost a bid to keep his current seat on the 5th District Appellate Court in Southern Illinois, to which he was elected in 1994. The state Constitution requires Supreme Court and appellate court justices to run for retention every 10 years.

Indictment on fake sodas

PA PITTSBURGH — An unknown number of restaurants unwittingly took part in a bogus Coca-Cola taste test, according to a federal grand jury indictment.

The indictment accuses a now-defunct distributor of shipping soft drinks to restaurants throughout southwest Pennsylvania with bogus labels promising Coca-Cola, Coke, Coca-Cola Classic, Cherry Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite and Ramblin Root Beer.

Joseph Stefanic Jr., 50, pleaded not guilty to trademark infringement, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$2 million fine.

New city approved

OR DAMASCUS — Oregon gained a new city on Election Day.

In Clatsop County, 3,000 residents voted to incorporate Dam-

ascus and approved a five-member city council that will choose a mayor.

It's the state's first new city since Ketter in 1982.

Community crimefighters

MA BOSTON — Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority police officials said crimes decreased this year from January to September due to strong community and multiagency involvement. The MBTA recorded only two assaults in the transit system involving guns, compared to seven in 2003, and knifepoint robberies dropped from 42 in 2003 to 17. Police arrested 11 students through September of this year, compared with 16 in the same period in 2003.

Down with amphitheater

IN INDIANAPOLIS — A Butler University campus amphitheater will be torn down to make way for new student housing and a fitness center, school officials said. The 4,000-seat Hilton U. Brown Theatre attracted performers such as Liza Minnelli, Liberace and Jack Benny over nearly 40 years. The new housing will include several apartment-style buildings with space for 500 students. The project is expected to be done in August 2006.

Perfect match

NJ TRENTON — A 29-year-old woman whose desperate search for a bone marrow transplant led to a nationwide campaign to recruit more donors of South Asian descent has found a perfect match.

Pia Awal, who has leukemia, initially was told that the odds of obtaining a lifesaving transplant were slim. Her best chance was from another person of South Asian descent, among the most underrepresented groups in the nation's bone marrow registry.

Family members and other loved ones built a Web site and helped get 12,442 more people tested in just 14 weeks.

Now a donor in Britain has been identified, and Awal, whose family immigrated from India, is expected to undergo the transplant later this month in Seattle.

Memorial dedication

NM WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE — Former Iraqi prisoners of war Jessica Lynch and Joseph Hudson helped dedicate an oak tree in honor of Army Spc. Lori Ann Piastewa, who was killed in Iraq last year.

The tree and a plaque in Piastewa's honor are located outside a three-story barracks at White Sands.

Piastewa, 23, died after her convoy took a wrong turn and was ambushed near Nasiriyah in March 2003. Other members of 507th Maintenance Company from Fort Bliss, Texas, including Lynch and Hudson, from nearby Alamogordo, were taken prisoner.

Piastewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe who lived in Tuba City, Ariz., on the Navajo Nation, was the first woman killed in the war and is believed to be the first American Indian woman killed in combat fighting for the U.S. military. She had two children.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Sharpton, wife split up

The Rev. Al Sharpton and his wife, Kathy Jordan Sharpton, have announced their separation after 23 years of marriage.



Sharpton

The Sharptons said in a statement in New York Friday that they "will remain on the best of terms."

The pair "have extremely active careers and their separation allows them to continue pursuing their work interests," the statement said. "They will continue to work together in their civil rights work and in their other business ventures, including those in the entertainment industry."

The seven will officially receive their divorce awards at a Jan. 7 concert and ceremony in Long Beach, Calif.

Shaw, others become Jazz Masters

Former big band leader Artie Shaw is among seven artists who have been named National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Masters.

Since 1992, the National Endowment has awarded the title to a handful of living jazz musicians and promoters to recognize their contributions to the music form.

Those honored also include guitarist Kenny Burrell, clarinetist saxophonist Paquito D'Rivera, composer Slide Hampton, singer Shirley Horn, keyboardist Jimmy Smith and jazz impresario George Wein. The announcement was made Thursday at a gala hosted by Seattle's Earshot Jazz Society.

The seven will officially receive their awards at a Jan. 7 concert and ceremony in Long Beach, Calif.

Lynn to perform at MerleFest

Loretta Lynn and The Chieftains will make their debut appearances next year at MerleFest, the Americana music festival begun by bluegrass legend Doc Watson.

Dozens of acts are to perform at the 18th annual festival, from April 28 to May 1 in Wilkesboro, N.C., including returning favorites Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, and Alison Krauss and Union Station.

Lynn won album of the year and artist of the year from the Americana Music Association earlier this year for "Van Lear Rose."

"The really neat thing about it is it appeals to young people and old people and everybody in between," said Claire Armbruster, MerleFest's art-list-relations coordinator. "It's just a great piece of work. It's rooted in country, not the slick country of today, but the roots of country."

Developer claims Trump stole design

A judge should order the destruction of two condo towers being built for an oceanfront resort that carries the name of Donald Trump, according to a lawsuit filed by a Miami architect who claims the billionaire and a hotel developer took his design.

The lawsuit filed by Paul Oravec says he was "shocked and dismayed" to see design photos of the towers at Trump Grande Ocean Resort and Residences in the newspaper after similar ideas he created were turned down by Trump.

The resort is under construction in Sunny Isles Beach on the Atlantic Ocean, just a few miles northeast of Miami.

Norma Foerdrer, a spokeswoman for Trump, said he couldn't comment because he hadn't seen the filing.

Woods sues yacht builder

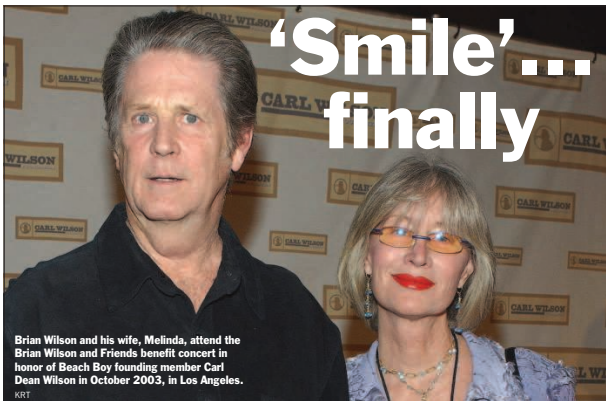
Tiger Woods is taking a swing at the builder of his luxury yacht, the Privacy, accusing the shipyard of carrying his name and photograph for financial gain without permission.

Lawyers for Woods sued in federal court on Oct. 29, claiming his contract with Christensen Shipyard's Ltd., barred the boat manufacturer from using the golfer to promote the company, but it did so anyway.

The lawsuit accuses the Vancouver, Wash.-based company of starting a "widespread national campaign" using Woods' name and photos of the 155-foot yacht. It also says the company used the golfer's name and the pictures in a display at the Fort Lauderdale [Fla.] Boat Show last month.

The lawsuit claims more than \$75,000 in damages for Woods because his privacy was violated.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press



Brian Wilson and his wife, Melinda, attend the Brian Wilson and Friends benefit concert in honor of Beach Boy founding member Carl Dean Wilson in October 2003, in Los Angeles.

'Smile'... finally

Brian Wilson's latest album was more than 30 years in the making

BY JOHN ROGERS

The Associated Press

If Brian Wilson could change just one thing in life, it wouldn't be the legendary emotional traumas, the insecurities, the drug abuse, the battles with weight or the endless legal conflicts that nearly destroyed him.

"I would have made the rhythm of 'California Girls' a little better," Wilson deadpans. "That," he adds with the slightest of smiles, "is all I would want to change."

Were Wilson not shy and extremely modest by nature, he'd probably be wearing a bigger smile these days. The genius who was the guiding force behind the Beach Boys — at a time when the group mattered to music as much as the Beatles — is back in all his creative glory.

The proof is "Smile," a 47-minute rock opera in three movements that, when the composer first envisioned it in 1966, was to have been a "teenage symphony to God."

He was 24 then. He is 62 now. Except for a slight paunch and the gray overtaking his wavy brown hair, Wilson's appearance has changed little from the gangly, cherub-faced youth who captivated the world with such songs as "Surfer Safari," "Little Deuce Coupe," "Surfer Girl," "Catch a Wave" and "Fun Fun Fun."

Though much of the public may forever associate him with the Beach Boys' three-minute odes to sand, girls and cars, Wilson grew to be one of pop music's greatest composers.

After the Beatles stunned the pop music world with the release of the elaborately produced "Rubber Soul" in 1965, Wilson one-upped them with "Pet Sounds." The Beatles, in turn, responded with "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," a work still regarded by Rolling Stone magazine as the greatest rock album ever made ("Pet Sounds" is No. 2).

"Rubber Soul" was such an experience for me to hear that I went to my piano and I started writing 'Pet Sounds' right away," Wilson, dressed in blue jeans, a pullover shirt and tennis shoes, said recently during a break from rehearsing "Smile" for a concert tour.

It was while the Beatles were in the studio putting together "Sgt. Pepper" that he and longtime collaborator Van Dyke Parks were working on "Smile" for the Beach Boys.

Those who heard early tapes predicted it would be the greatest rock accomplishment ever. But it was not to be, and the reasons why quickly became the stuff of legend.

Among the stories that spread over the years: Wilson suffered a nervous breakdown. He realized he couldn't top the Beatles again, and it drove him over the edge. His fellow

Beach Boys — in those days Wilson's cousin Mike Love; his brothers, Carl and Dennis Wilson; and Bruce Johnston and Al Jardine — couldn't understand, let alone begin to play, an album as complicated as "Smile."

So in frustration, it was said, Wilson set his studio on fire, destroyed all the "Smile" tapes, then locked himself in drug-addled seclusion in his room.

Indeed, his subsequent battles to overcome drug abuse and other problems would be well documented.

"The pressure of trying to live up to my name was a little hard for me, so I had some difficulties, some mental difficulties," he acknowledges now. "But I worked through it."

The reason he gives for shelving "Smile," however, is much less intriguing.

"I don't think it would have been a hit album," he says matter of fact. "I think it would have been a big bomb."

"It was too advanced music. It was avant-garde music and it was too ahead of its time," he adds, noting that even after his wife, Melinda, persuaded him to finish it this year he still had doubts that it would be well received.

Fueled by sometimes-drug-induced visions, "Smile" sought to create a sprawling musical landscape of mid-America, one that extended across the 20th century and from the Midwest to Hawaii.

Lushly orchestrated and vocally challenging (a 22-piece band and a dozen voices are needed to perform it in concert), it clearly would have been the ultimate Beach Boys album.

Instead it has become Wilson's long-delayed masterpiece, a symphonic work bookended by two of his most heralded pop songs, "Heroes and Villains" and "Good Vibrations."

"It's pretty much like if Frank Zappa and Mozart got together," is how his current drummer, Jim Hines, describes it.

Wilson himself shuns comparisons to Mozart, Beethoven or other major musical figures. He cites his influences as his contemporaries the Beatles and, before that, producer Phil Spector, who created rock's "Wall of Sound."

"I don't consider myself to be a genius," he says. "I consider myself to be a clever songwriter."

Known for a history of stage fright, musicians who work with him now say Wilson appears to have gotten over it.

"Oh, no, no, no, it's not gone at all," he says with a chuckle. "I still have stage fright all the time. Before every concert, I do about a half hour of stage fright. But then, as soon as we hit our first notes and the band starts to play, and I start to sing, my fears go away. My fears and phobias just dissolve."

*"I don't think
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Brian Wilson




AFRICA MIDEAST

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As of noon, Eastern U.S. time




EDITORIAL FORECAST

rainshowers. Highs in the upper 50s low 70s, Tuesday lows in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Nov 12 Nov 19 Nov 26 Dec 5

As of noon, Eastern U.S. time



076-4

FRONTS: 

| | | | | COLD | WARM | STATIONARY |
|---|---|---|---|------|------|------------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |

| Temperature | Humidity | Snow | Ice | Sunny | Partly Cloudy | Cloudy |
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[Check our Relocation Guide](#)

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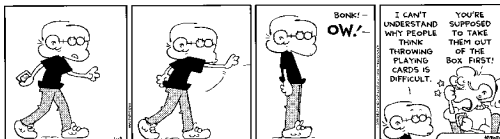
Realtors at your new station.

STARS AND STRIPES

STARS & STRIPES®
Your Hometown Newspaper

1001 Hometown Newspaper

Fotrot



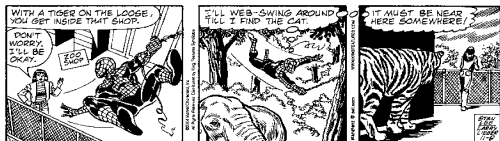
B.C.



Baby Blues



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



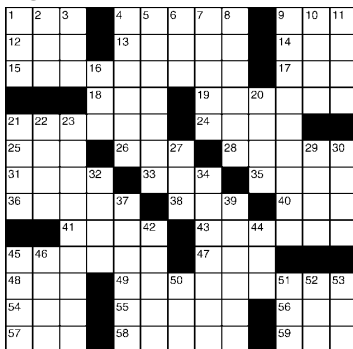
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 King preceptor
- 4 Fluster
- 9 Buchdicht set
- 12 Hibernation location
- 13 Big dipper
- 14 Dos Passos trilogy
- 15 Dry red California wine
- 17 Upper limit
- 18 Remnant
- 19 Heavier Frisbee together
- 21 Infamous Ms. Borden
- 24 Former frosh
- 25 Rhyming tribute
- 26 Caught sight of
- 28 Burpee merchandise
- 31 Slender
- 33 Eg. and Syr., once

Down

- 1 Wood-shaping tool
- 2 Mainlander's memento
- 3 Massachusetts cape
- 4 Singer Morissette
- 5 Hair ribbon of a sort
- 6 Put 2 and 2 together
- 7 Coasters
- 8 Greek sun god
- 9 Catholic skullcap
- 10 Jacob's brother
- 11 Sistas
- 16 Shriners' chapeau
- 20 Graf —
- 21 Privation
- 22 Between jobs
- 23 Cultural climate
- 27 "— the Dog"
- 29 Slay
- 30 Unseen problem
- 32 Oliver Twist's request
- 34 Put back to normal
- 37 Hose attachment
- 39 Soggy ground
- 42 Shape of the Earth
- 44 Fleur-de—
- 45 "Kapow!"
- 46 Sharpen
- 50 Erstwhile garment
- 51 Pair
- 52 Show you're human
- 53 Reuben holder

Answer to Previous Puzzle



11-8

CRYPTOQUIP

RQIV J SJVJCXPP LINPTIY
DAA, D GQDV GQI UCPLAIT
TDXQG RIAA LI AIJUDVX

YDNSVIYY.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF A PLUMBER DECIDES TO GO FOR SOMETHING RISKY, COULD YOU SAY HE TAKES THE PLUNGER?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals L

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Monday

AFN-Sports, 1230 a.m.—No football: Houston at Denver (joined in progress).

AFN-Atlanta, 1 a.m.—No football: Kansas City at Tampa Bay.

AFN-Atlanta, 2:30 a.m.—No football: Cleveland at Baltimore.

AFN-Sports, 3:30 a.m.—Golf: The Tour Championship, final round (No. 10).
AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.—Off-Roads: Wal-Mart F.I.V.T. Sports, 3 a.m. —No football: Minnesota at Indianapolis (D).

Tuesday

AFN-Sports, 1230 a.m.—Auto racing: Chase at Texas (Texas, 12:30, 12:35, 12:40).
AFN-Atlanta, 1 a.m.—Off-Roads: No football: Kansas City at Tampa Bay.
AFN-Atlanta, 2:30 a.m.—No football: Minnesota at Indianapolis (D).

All times Central European Time. Did not include in all areas. Visit www.affn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL

| AMERICAN CONFERENCE | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|----|-------|---|---|
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | | W | L |
| New England | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | East | 4 | 0 |
| N.Y. Jets | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Indianapolis | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | South | 4 | 0 |
| Pittsburgh | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Baltimore | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Cincinnati | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| West | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Denver | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| San Diego | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Oakland | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |

| NATIONAL CONFERENCE | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|----|-------|---|---|
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | | W | L |
| Philadelphia | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | East | 4 | 0 |
| N.Y. Giants | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Washington | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | South | 4 | 0 |
| Tampa Bay | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| West | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Minnesota | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Detroit | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Chicago | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |

| Sunday's games | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|----|-------|---|---|
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | | W | L |
| N.Y. Jets at Buffalo | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | East | 4 | 0 |
| Dallas at Cincinnati | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Philadelphia at Pittsburgh | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | South | 4 | 0 |
| Kansas City at Tampa Bay | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| N.Y. Giants at San Diego | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Seattle at San Francisco | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| San Francisco at St. Louis | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Cleveland at Baltimore | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Green Bay at Jacksonville | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |

| Monday's game | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|----|-------|---|---|
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | | W | L |
| Minnesota at Indianapolis | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | East | 4 | 0 |
| Chicago at Tennessee | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Baltimore at N.Y. Jets | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | South | 4 | 0 |
| Tampa Bay at Atlanta | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Detroit at Jacksonville | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Kansas City at New Orleans | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Cincinnati at Washington | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Green Bay at Arizona | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| Minnesota at Green Bay | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |

Monday, Nov. 15
Philadelphia at Dallas

Auto racing

| Bashas' Supermarkets 200 | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|------|-----|----|-------|---|---|
| | W | L | T | Pct | PF | PA | | W | L |
| Phoenix | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | East | 4 | 0 |
| Long Beach | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| St. Louis | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | South | 4 | 0 |
| Atlanta | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| San Francisco | 4 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 4 | 0 |
| West | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Denver | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| San Diego | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |
| Oakland | 3 | 0 | 0 | .667 | 198 | 68 | | 3 | 0 |

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| 24. (22) Paul Menard, Chevrolet, 205. | 67-72-65-205 | 11 |
| 15. (33) J.J. Velez, Chevrolet, 205. | 72-66-65-205 | 11 |
| 16. (22) David Green, Pontiac, 205. | 72-66-65-205 | 11 |
| 17. (20) Brett Presley, Ford, 205. | 72-66-65-205 | 11 |
| 18. (20) Tim Fendley, Chevrolet, 205. | 72-66-65-205 | 11 |
| 19. (20) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, 205. | 72-66-65-205 | 11 |
| 20. (20) David Green, Pontiac, 205. | 72-66-65-205 | 11 |
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| 140. (20) David Green, Pontiac, 205. | 72-66-65-205 | 11 |

TANK McNAMARA

A cartoon illustration of Tank McNamara, a man with a large head and a small body, wearing a suit and tie. He is standing behind a podium, speaking into a microphone. A large speech bubble above him contains the text: "WE'VE GOT TO DOUBLE-NO, TRIPLE- THE NUMBER OF REPLAYS IN OUR NFL GAMES!". To the right of the speech bubble is the FOX SPORTS logo, which consists of the word "FOX" in a stylized font above the word "SPORTS" in a smaller font, all enclosed within an oval border.

WE'VE GOT TO
DOUBLE-NO, TRIPLE-
THE NUMBER OF
REPLAYS IN OUR
NFL GAMES!

FOX
SPORTS

Colts, Vikings prepare for offensive battle

BY MICHAEL MAROT

The Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Peyton Manning leads the AFC in passer rating and touchdown passes this season. Daunte Culpepper has done the same in the NFC.

Now each quarterback may have to perform perfectly.

When the Indianapolis Colts and Minnesota Vikings meet Monday night, Manning and Culpepper know there will be a little margin for error. One failed drive won't be just another lost opportunity; it could be the difference between winning and losing.

"As an offense, we have high goals and expectations," Manning said. "We're disappointed when we punt because we feel we're better than that."

The game could be one of this season's most entertaining.

Indianapolis (4-3) and Minnesota (5-2) rank among the NFL's top offenses and worst defenses, setting up an anticipated shootout between teams that need a victory.

The Vikings had a four-game winning streak end last week while the Colts are trying to snap their first two-game skid in almost two years.

On paper, the teams look alike. Indianapolis has Manning, last year's co-MVP, Marvin Harrison, a five-time Pro Bowler and the NFL record-holder for most receptions in a season, Edgerrin James, a two-time NFL rushing champ and Reggie Wayne and Brandon Stokley, who have become consistent targets this year.

Minnesota counters with Culpepper, a two-time Pro Bowl starter, Randy Moss, the league's biggest deep threat; and three potentially dangerous runners in Mewelde Moore, Michael Bennett and Ottis Smith, who is returning after a four-game suspension.

But Moss will miss a game for the first time in his NFL career, sitting out with a strained right hamstring.

Without Moss, the Vikings looked like a different team in last week's 34-13 loss to the New York Giants, which is why the Vikings are making contingency plans.



Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning (18) hands off to running back Edgerrin James on Oct. 31. The Colts, have one of the league's top offenses and worst defenses, just like their Monday Night Football opponent Minnesota Vikings.

"I'm hoping they don't score 40 points," Vikings coach Mike Tice said. "You have to be prepared to stop them. Does it happen? Not always. I just hope we can slow them down because I don't think you can stop them."

During the first half of the season, the Colts' biggest opponent has been their defense.

While averaging a league-high 31.1 points and punting only 22 times, second in the NFL, the Colts simply cannot stay on the field long enough.

Opponents have usually played keep-away against a defense close to a record-setting pace for yards allowed and which has yielded the fourth-highest scoring average (25.4) in the NFL.

The two times opponents tried to play up-tempo against the Colts, it's been wild.

Indianapolis won Round 1, beating Green Bay 45-31, and lost Round 2, 45-35 at Kansas City last week.

Minnesota's offense could create even more problems.

Culpepper already has set an NFL record by throwing for five touchdowns in three games this year, while Moore averages 5.9 yards per carry. Bennett has sprinter's speed and Smith is the power back.

If that means Round 3 will come Monday night, at least some people in the stadium will enjoy it.

"I think it's a fun matchup," Vikings offensive coordinator Scott Linehan said. "We're going to get a chance to play each other, and see who's the best."

Colts coach Tony Dungy, a former defensive coordinator, is hoping for a different kind of game.



3 a.m. Tuesday
AFN-Atlanta, AFN-Radio

Game time is Central European Time.

After the Colts gave up 590 yards to the Chiefs, Dungy has preached consistency all week. Monday night will be the next big test.

"We've got to do a better job of not putting people in scoring position," Dungy said. "You can't give people extra chances when they have good offenses."

There are other problems, too.

Indy's smallest defense faces a much heavier Vikings line. Plus, a secondary ravaged by injuries must also contend with Minnesota's big receivers such as Marcus Robinson.

Starting cornerback Donald Strickland is out for the season with a torn labrum in his right shoulder, and Strickland's replacement, Joseph Jefferson, is questionable with a sore right knee. The other starter, Jason David, is expected to play despite a hip injury.

If starting strong safety Mike Doss can't play because of a strained groin, rookie Bob Sanders will make his first NFL start. Culpepper isn't worried about the Colts' defense. He just wants to make sure every thing clicks for the Vikings.

"We want to be good on every play," he said. "We want to execute every time, make the adjustments, and the ones who make the plays are the ones who win games."

And one failure Monday night could be one failure too many.

"We want to be perfect on every play," Stokley said. "If we aren't and we do lose the game, then that's on us. It doesn't matter if the defense gives up 800 yards, that's on us."

Melvin faces long rebuilding road with Diamondbacks

BY BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — After the Wally Backman fiasco, the Arizona Diamondbacks were fortunate to have a handy and willing backup choice in Bob Melvin.

The low-key Melvin so coveted the managing job that he brushed aside any concern about being the team's second choice.

"This is the one I really wanted," he said. "This is where I feel most at home."

That home, though, is in disarray. Melvin faces some major challenges in rebuilding a team coming off one of the worst seasons in baseball history, at 51-113. And the franchise must mend an image damaged by the events of the past week.

Melvin, bench coach under Bob Brenly when the Diamondbacks won the World Series in 2001, brings a familiar face and a likable demeanor to the task.

"I think the record of Bob Melvin, and the coaches when

they are announced, as well as who they are and how they conduct themselves, will go a long way toward restoring faith in this organization," General Manager Joe Garagiola Jr. said.

Melvin has lived in the Phoenix area for nearly a dozen years.

When he was fired after two seasons as manager of the Seattle Mariners, his eyes were on the Diamondbacks job. He was one of three finalists — and the top choice of many within the organization — but he lost out to Backman, whose fiery temperament and aggressive style won over managing partner Ken Kendrick.

Backman was introduced as the new manager Monday. Three days later, Melvin's phone rang. The Diamondbacks wanted another meeting, and they asked if he would still be interested in the job.

After The New York Times reported about Backman's two arrests, the Diamondbacks belatedly hired a company to do a background check.

"When you get 25 guys going in the right direction, in the same direction, it's a very powerful thing."

Bob Melvin

Arizona Diamondbacks manager



What they discovered led them to change course.

At another news conference Friday, Kendrick announced that Backman — who never signed a contract — would not get the job.

Instead, Melvin agreed to a two-year deal with club options.

"We made a mistake, and we've decided to turn the page and move forward in a different direction," said chairman Jeff Moorad, who has known Melvin for 20 years. "That direction, though, is one we're very optimistic about."

Melvin wants to return to the old-school professionalism that

was the trademark of Arizona's best teams.

"The one thing that I did not see well here was play as a team," Melvin said. "Sometimes it's not the highest payroll. Sometimes it's not the most All-Star Game appearances among players on your team. It's getting 25 guys to go in the right direction and buy into it, and believe in their roles. When you get 25 guys going in the right direction, in the same direction, it's a very powerful thing."

Melvin played catcher for seven teams over 10 seasons in the majors, hitting .233 in 692 games.

He was Phil Garner's bench

coach with Milwaukee in 1999 and moved with Garner to Detroit the next season. Brenly, a close friend, hired Melvin as bench coach in 2001, and the two were together through the 2002 season. Melvin was hired to replace Lou Piniella in Seattle, and the team went 93-59 in his first year. But Seattle faded to 63-99 last season, and Melvin lost his job.

The two years as a manager, he said, helped him learn better how to communicate with players, among other things.

Just what kind of big question he will have in Arizona is a question. The Diamondbacks want to re-sign Richie Sexson, but the slugger rejected the team's latest offer and will test the free-agent market.

Arizona needs at least one starting pitcher, a center fielder and at least one middle infielder. Randy Johnson has one year and \$16 million left on his contract with the Diamondbacks. He might want to go to a contender, and Arizona might be willing to entertain offers.

Woods' lossy season with flourish

Former No. 1 tied for lead in Tour Championship

The Associated Press

ATLANTA — What used to be routine felt like a novelty to Tiger Woods.

After four straight birdies on his way to a 5-under 65 at East Lake, the former No. 1 player in the world was introduced Saturday as one of the 54-hole leaders in the Tour Championship.

Woods raised his cap in mock celebration, and for good reason. It's been more than a year since he has been in this position.

"I think I've made steady progress," said Woods, who has only one victory this year and lost his No. 1 ranking two months ago to Vijay Singh. "This is just merely a continuation of it."

The final round shapes up as a battle of the ages.

Woods was tied with 50-year-old Jay Haas, who recovered from two early bogies for a 68. They were at 9-under 201 and will be paired together Sunday, two close friends born 22 years apart who haven't met since 1991.

Of course, that should be kept in perspective.

Woods has gone 19 stroke-play tournaments without winning — his longest drought since turning pro in 1996. Haas has gone 11 years and 276 tournaments since

Golf roundup

his last victory, the 1993 Texas Open.

"I definitely won't be the favorite tomorrow," Haas said. "But what he does shouldn't affect what I do."

Woods lost 36-hole leads in back-to-back weeks in May, the first sign that he no longer was the dominant force he was. That's what makes Sunday such an interesting test.

Woods is ruthless with at least a share of the 54-hole lead, winning 30 of 32 times in that position. Putting together his best back-to-back rounds in four years only made him feel that much more confident.

"I'm going to give it my best," Woods said.

U.S. Open champion Retief Goosen, playing with Woods, also made four straight birdies and the outright lead until he failed to save par from two bunkers on the back nine. He shot 69 and was four shots behind, along with Mike Weir (67) and Stephen Ames (70).

Singh's bid to finish the year with 10 victories — the most since

Sam Snead won 11 times in 1950 — crashed with an indifferent round of 70 that left him 11 shots out of the lead.

"You've got to be in contention to be 100 percent into it," Singh said. "I'm just not into it."

Woods got himself into the mix with his two lowest consecutive rounds (64-65) since he won the Canadian Open four years ago by closing with 64-65-64. Of course, that was when Woods was at the height of his game.

He has gone through swing changes this year that have resulted in his worst year as a pro — only one victory, at the Match Play Championship in late February when he could get away with some bad shots and ugly rounds.

Sorenstam dominates in Mizuno Classic victory

OTSU, Japan — Annika Sorenstam matched Laura Davies' LPGA Tour record for consecutive victories in a tournament Sunday, closing with a 7-under 65 for her fourth straight Mizuno Classic.

Sorenstam won her seventh LPGA Tour title of the year and 55th overall, finishing at 22-under 194 for a nine-stroke victory over three players. She tied the record for consecutive victories in an



Tiger Woods hits out of the gallery to the second green during the third round of the Tour Championship on Saturday in Atlanta. Woods entered Sunday's final round tied for the lead with PGAT veteran Jay Haas.

event set by Davies in the 1994-97 Standard Register Ping.

After opening with a 63 and shooting a 66 Saturday to take a four-stroke lead into the final round, Sorenstam opened an eight-shot advantage with an eagle and three birdies in a four-hole stretch on the front nine.

Japan's Ai Miyazaki and Michelle Ohba shot 63s to tie for second with South Korea's Grace Park (67) at 13 under.

Pavin wins in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam — Former U.S. Open champion Corey Pavin finished third Sunday in the inaugural Vietnam Masters, which was won by Angelo Quer of the Philippines.

Quer shot a 2-under-par 70 for a two-stroke victory.

Pavin, who closed with a 70, birdied the third, fifth and seventh holes but was slowed by a bogey on the 13th.

Radcliffe wins closest-ever NYC Marathon

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Maybe this will make up for her Olympic heartbreak.

Britain's Paula Radcliffe surged ahead in the final feet Sunday to win the tightest New York City Marathon in history in 2 hours, 23 minutes, 10 seconds — less than three months after pulling out of the Athens Games just a few miles from the finish in a fit of tears.

Sports briefs

Radcliffe edged Kenya's Susan Chepkemei by 4 seconds to become the race's first non-Kenyan women's champion since 2000. She raised her arms in triumph after crossing the line and wrapped herself in the United Jack flag.

No crying this time around. The previous record for closest women's finish in New York was 5 seconds, Wanda Panfil's margin over Kim Jones in 2000.

"I was reasonably confident I could overtake her," Radcliffe said.

The men's race wasn't nearly as thrilling, with Hendrick Ramaala of South Africa winning in 2:09:28 for his first marathon victory.

Olympic silver medalist Meb Keflezighi of the United States was next across, 25 seconds behind.

Major leaguers go deep in win over Japan

TOKYO — The Japanese won the pregame home derby Tuesday night, but the major league All-Stars put their bats to work.

Back-to-back home runs by Moises Alou and Vernon Wells in the fourth inning and by Johnny Estrada and Brad Wilkerson in the ninth powered the major leaguers past the Japanese 7-3 Sunday for a 3-0 lead in the eight-game series.

They went 3-4-4 and had a two-run double to put his team up 5-3 in the eighth. The Toronto Blue Jays outfielder was the MVP of Game 3.

The game marked the return to Japan of Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Kazuhisa Ishii, who last pitched in the country in the 2001 Japan Series for the Yakuza Swallows. Ishii started and went five innings, allowing five hits and one earned run while striking out two.

"It felt strange pitching against [Atsuya] Furuta," said Ishii, referring to his former battermate with the Swallows. "I couldn't even look him straight in the face."

St. Louis Cardinals reliever Ray King worked two-thirds of an inning for the win.

United win shootout, reach MLS Cup

WASHINGTON — Nick Rimando stopped Clint Dempsey's shootout kick, and U.S. United rode Brian Carroll's successful shot moments earlier to a 4-3 victory Saturday over the New England Revolution and advanced to the MLS Cup.

It was the first Major League Soccer game ever decided by penalty kicks.

Eastern Conference champion United will play Western Conference winner Kansas City for the title on Nov. 14 in Carson, Calif.

The teams were tied at 3 after 90 minutes of regulation and two 15-minute sudden-death overtimes, forcing the game to alternating penalty kicks.

The teams were tied at three kicks apiece after five shooters.

D.C.'s sixth shooter, Carroll broke a shot high and to the left, out of the reach of Revolution goalkeeper Matt Reis.

Rimando then saved Dempsey's try to preserve the win and give United the conference championship. That sent an RFK Stadium crowd of 21,101 into a frenzy.

Safin captures third Paris Masters crown

PARIS — Marat Safin overpowered Radek Stepanek 5-3, 7-6 (5), 6-3 with the help of 16 aces Sunday to win his record-tying third Paris Masters title.

Safin, the 2000 U.S. Open champion,

claimed his 14th career championship. Stepanek was appearing in his first ATP Tour final.

Safin also won the Paris Masters in 2000 and 2002, and lost to Andre Agassi in the 1999 final.

Tsuyu KOs Mitchell to retain IBF title

GLENDAL, Ariz. — IBF junior welterweight champion Kostya Tsuyu retained his title Saturday night, demolishing Sharmba Mitchell in less than three rounds of the long-awaited rematch between the former titleholders.

Tsuyu (31-1) knocked Mitchell down four times — three in the third round.

The last time, the relentless native of a Russian steel-mill city dropped Mitchell to his knees with two combinations, then hit him with two right hands, two lefts and a right before referee Raul Caiz stepped in at the 2:48 mark.

Tsuyu was credited with a seven-round technical knockout of Mitchell (55-4) when they fought on Feb. 3, 2001. But that was because Mitchell had to retire after rejoining his left knee.

This time, Tsuyu, a former champion of all three major divisions, left no question about his dominance at 140 pounds, getting his 25th knockout and improving to 15-1 in world championship bouts.

U.S. women's unbeaten run over

PHILADELPHIA — Denmark snuffed the U.S. women's soccer team's 21-game unbeaten streak Saturday, beating the Americans 3-1 in an exhibition match.

"This is a very good team," U.S. captain Julie Foudy said. "It reminds us that the world is getting better and it makes our accomplishments more sweet."

Marete Pedersen scored two goals for Denmark.

The U.S. team had not lost since a 3-1 setback to Sweden on March 18.

McMurray edges out Kyle Busch

The Associated Press

AVONDALE, Ariz. — Jamie McMurray beat a bitterly disappointed Kyle Busch on Saturday, winning the NASCAR Busch Series race at Phoenix International Raceway.

They swapped the lead twice in the final 27 laps. McMurray used a surprising outside pass on a restart 10 laps from the scheduled finish to grab the lead from Busch for the final time in the Bashas' Supermarket 200.

Busch, who dominated the race, leading 151 of the first 190 laps, got a last chance to get back past McMurray's Dodge after Shane Hill and Kevin Harvick collided, igniting a multicausal crash with four laps to go in regulation.

Without time to restart the race before lap 200, NASCAR finished with a green-white-checker, two-lap overtime that began on lap 204.

But McMurray, who led four times for 47 of the 205 laps on the one-mile oval, easily held off the rookie this time as Busch found himself having to fend off series leader Martin Truex Jr. to hold on to second place.

"That was a great win for us," said McMurray, a Nextel Cup regular who got his sixth Busch win and second of the season.

Chang sets two passing records

BY JAYMES SONG

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Timmy Chang became the most prolific passer in college history Saturday night, throwing for 283 yards and four touchdowns in Hawaii's 44-24 victory over Louisiana Tech.

Chang needed just 14 yards to break Ty Detmer's NCAA career mark of 15,031 yards set from 1988-91, and overtook the Heisman Trophy winner from BYU with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Jason Rivers on Hawaii's second series.

"It's very special, I'm not going to lie," Chang said. "Right now, I'm not really thinking about it, but I'm going to look back on it and be very pleased."

The crowd erupted and gave Chang a standing ovation as the referees handed him the game ball. Chang — who finished the game with 15,303 yards — ran across the field and gave the ball and a hug to his father, Levi, on the sideline.

"I just told him I loved him and I wanted to thank him," Chang said. "Your family is probably the most underrated people around you, and my family played a big role in my life."

Teammates poured onto the field as flashbulbs sparked in Aloha Stadium.

"He's a special guy," Bulldogs coach Jack Bicknell said. "He made the big plays and he's a great kid."

On the first play of the second quarter, the fifth-year senior from Honolulu also broke the NCAA career completion mark of 1,231 held by Texas Tech's Cliff Kirsby.

Chang finished 26-of-42, and Rivers caught eight passes for 137 yards.



Utah quarterback Alex Smith (11) prepares to pass to wide receiver Paris Warren for a touchdown against Colorado State.

Smith keeps Utah rolling toward BCS

BY DOUG ALDEN

The Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Seventh-ranked Utah has its first 9-0 start and has scored more points than any other team in school history.

And there's more to go. Alex Smith threw for 291 yards and four touchdowns to lead Utah past Colorado State 63-31 on Saturday night, continuing his Heisman Trophy campaign and his team's hopes for a Bowl Championship Series bid.

"I keep expecting to hit a road-block sometime, but this team keeps proving me wrong," said Smith, who completed 21 of 26 passes. "Offensively, I don't know who can stop us."

So far, nobody has — and recently no one has even come close.

Morgan Scalley returned a fumble 88 yards for a score and Marty Johnson and Paris Warren both scored three touchdowns to help the Utes (9-0, 5-0 Mountain West) break the school record for points in a season with 412. That tops the 405 points scored in 1985 and Utah still has two regular-season games to go.

"We not only play for this team, but we play for teams in the past," Scalley said. Being "9-0 is great, but it doesn't mean a lot unless we keep rolling."

The Utes, who have had two other 8-0 starts, scored more than 50 points for the third straight

week and moved a step closer to a perfect season and a possible BCS bid — the first for a school outside the six BCS conferences.

An Orange Bowl representative attended the game, and the Utes once again put on a scoring display, although hoping for a spot in the national title game might be aiming a little high. Utah was sixth in the BCS standings entering the weekend and had little trouble beating the Rams (3-6, 2-3) for the second straight season.

The Utes had four scoring drives of 80 yards or more and forced five turnovers.

"Utah is the best in the Mountain West. There's no question about that," said Rams coach Sonny Lubik, who had Meyer as an assistant at Colorado State in the early 90s. "Offensively, this team is consistent. They're explosive. They've got a nice scheme."

Colorado State's Caleb Hanie was 11-for-25 for 190 yards and two touchdowns, but also threw three interceptions. Hanie also ran for a touchdown during Colorado State's 21-point fourth quarter against the Utah reserves.

The Utes scored three touchdowns in each of the first two quarters and rested Smith, who is hoping to be Utah's first Heisman Trophy finalist, for most of the second half. He came back in midway through the fourth quarter after Colorado State's three touchdowns, and threw his fourth TD pass of the game, but the outcome was never in question.

Cavs shut out Terps, start at ACC

The Associated Press

Top 25

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. — Wall, Lundy ran for two touchdowns, giving him 14 this season, and No. 12 Virginia remained in a first-place tie in the Atlantic Coast Conference with a 16-0 win over Maryland on Saturday.

In a game that has grown into a bitter rivalry, neither team looked especially sharp at the beginning. But the Cavaliers (7-1, 4-1 ACC) were down the Terrapins (4-5, 2-4) on the ground, running for 295 yards. Alvin Pearson led the way with 170 yards on 31 carries, and Lundy added 107 yards on 24 attempts.

Virginia's defense also played a huge role, not allowing quarterback Joel Statham to follow up his 333-yard performance in a 20-17 victory against Florida State last week, or Josh Allen to come any where near the career-best 257 yards he ran for against Virginia last year.

Statham was 10-for-17 for just 115 yards before being replaced by Jordan Steffy in the fourth quarter. Statham was intercepted twice by linebacker Ahmad Reed. Allen ran for 39 yards on 10 tries.

No. 8 Georgia 62, Kentucky 17: In Lexington, Ky., David Greene passed for 259 yards and set an NCAA Division I-A record for victories by a quarterback with 40, breaking former Tennessee star Peyton Manning's mark.

Georgia (8-1, 6-1 SEC) prepped for its showdown with No. 3 Auburn by scoring on six consecutive possessions against the Wildcats (1-8, 0-6), who have lost seven of their last eight games.

Freshman tailback Thomas Brown ran for a career-high 130 yards and had three short TD runs for Georgia, which had a season-high 589 yards of total offense. The Bulldogs' point total was their highest since a 70-6 rout of Northeast Louisiana in 1994.

No. 13 Florida St., 29, Duke 7: In Tallahassee, Fla., backup quarterback Wyatt Sexton led three long scoring drives in the second half, and Gary Clemens tied a school record with five field goals in his college debut.

Sexton completed 11 of 15 passes for 220 yards and a touchdown while leading the Seminoles (7-2, 5-2 ACC) on drives of 93, 80 and 70 yards to break open a tight game with 20 straight points. Sexton replaced Chris Rix, who failed to get the Seminoles into the end zone in the first half.

No. 15 West Virginia 42, Temple 21: Ray-Jay Harris caught two scoring passes and ran for two other touchdowns to lead West Virginia at home.

West Virginia's Chris Henry, benched for the first half after being ejected last week against Rutgers, caught a 40-yard TD pass from Rasheed Marshall late in the third quarter. Henry, who had two unsportsmanlike penalties last week, flipped the ball around his body after the scoring catch. He hit a Temple player, but Henry, mentioning that it was meant for the referee, wasn't flagged.

West Virginia (8-1, 4-0 Big East) struggled again on defense, but Temple (1-8, 0-4) couldn't convert its many opportunities into scores.

No. 18 Virginia Tech 27, North Carolina 24: Mike Inoh ran for 236 yards and two touchdowns and the visiting Hoosiers survived a late North Carolina rally, felt short when the Tar Heels missed a tying 54-yard field goal with about a minute left.

The Tar Heels, who upset Miami last week on a last-play field goal by freshman Connor Barth, seemed poised for more late-game heroics. North Carolina drove to the Tech 26 in the closing minutes, but an 11-yard sack of Darian Durant on third down made Barth's job much tougher. His 54-yard attempt fell short.

No. 20 Iowa 23, Purdue 21: Drew Tate threw two touchdowns passes and Iowa 7-2-1. Big Ten forced five turnovers and blocked two field goals to run its home winning streak to 17, the fourth longest string in the nation.

Brandon Kirsch, starting in place of the injured Kyle Orton, threw three touchdown passes for Purdue. But his miscues in the fourth quarter, one fumble and two interceptions, scuttled Purdue's attempt to rally from a 17-point deficit.

Kirsch was 25-for-42 for 280 yards, including a 10-yard TD pass on the final play of the final minutes. Stubblefield finished with 15 catches for 153 yards. But the Hawkeyes recovered the ensuing outside kick to hand Purdue its fourth straight loss, its first since that length since 1993.

Cincinnati 52, No. 21 Southern Miss 24: Gino Guidotti threw three touchdowns in Cincinnati-record five touchdown passes to Hannibal Thomas.

Guidotti was 19-for-26 for 308 yards and three touchdowns in a 4-2 Conference USA, which snapped the Golden Eagles' 13-game league winning streak and beat a ranked team for the first time in four years.

No. 23 Arizona St. 34, Stanford 31: Andrew Walter threw 4 yards to Matt Miller — his fourth touchdown pass of the night — with 9 seconds to play to give host Arizona State (7-2, 4-2 Pac-10) a wild victory over Stanford (2-4, 4-5).

Cardinal backup quarterback T.C. Ostrander had given his team a 31-26 lead with a 67-yard touchdown pass to Alex Smith with 2:02 remaining.

But Walter, who was 28-for-43 for 415 yards and broke John Elway's Pac-10 record for career touchdown passes with 4-for-8 for 79 yards on a 13-play, 80-yard drive for the winning score.

No. 24 Boston College 21, Rutgers 10: Paul Peterson scored on a 1-yard play and three for a touchdown to lead the host Eagles.

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Fifth-ranked Badgers stay perfect

BY ARNIE STAPLETON
The Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — The fifth-ranked Wisconsin Badgers didn't have to rely on their sting defense for a change.

Anthony Davis ran for 124 yards and two touchdowns, and quarterback John Stocco threw for a career-high 297 yards and a touchdown, in the unbeaten Badgers' 38-14 rout of archival Minnesota on Saturday.

Stocco also ran for two touchdowns as the Badgers, 9-0 for the third time in school history, moved into a first-place tie with idle Michigan atop the Big Ten at 6-0.

They celebrated by rushing to the Golden Gophers' sideline to retrieve Paul Bunyan's Axe, the trophy that goes to the winner in Division I's most-played rivalry.

Wisconsin, which was averaging 21 points a game, had that by the end of the first quarter

and scored on its first five possessions to take a 31-0 lead.

Davis scored on two 1-yard runs and set up Stocco's 1-yard keeper with a 21-yard scamper before he was shoved out of bounds just shy of the pylon by safety John Pawlowski. Stocco also threw a 17-yard scoring strike to Jonathan Orr, and Mike Allen kicked a 41-yard field goal.

The Gophers (6-4, 3-4), who lost for the fourth time in five games, finally got going when Bryan Cupito led an 80-yard drive that he capped with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Ernie Wheelwright that made it 31-7.

By halftime, Stocco, a sophomore and first-year starter, had completed 14 of 18 passes for 241 yards, 30 more than his career high of 211 at Purdue last month. He finished 19-for-26.

"I've never seen him play like that before,"

Davis said. "That was amazing. That just shows you what he's capable of doing."

Wisconsin outgained Minnesota 205 yards to 31 in the first quarter, never giving the Gophers the chance to spring their 1-2 running punch of Marton Barber III and Laurence Maroney. Maroney finished with 57 yards on eight carries and Barber had 34 yards on seven runs.

The Gophers entered the game as the Big Ten's top-scoring offense (33.3) and owner of the league's best rushing offense, averaging 266 yards.

The Badgers countered with the nation's toughest scoring defense (8.5) and the second-best total defense nationally, yielding fewer than 240 yards a game.

Defensive end Erasmus James returned from a high ankle sprain and played on passing downs only. His presence was felt immediately when he deflected Cupito's pass on his first snap and forced a hurry on his third.

Oklahoma emerges with win over A&M

BY RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

COLLEGE STATION, Texas — This one was much tougher, but far sweeter, for Oklahoma.

Jason White threw five touchdown passes, including the decisive one with 6:43 left, and the second-ranked Sooners overcame Texas A&M's explosive offense and special teams trickery for a 43-35 victory Saturday.

Oklahoma handed Texas A&M a loss for the ages last season, 77-0, the worst in the 108-year history of Aggies football. But the rematch was a battle from start to finish for the Sooners (9-0, 6-0 Big 12).

White, the reigning Heisman Trophy winner, was 19-for-35 for 292 yards, taking control of the offense as the 22nd-ranked Aggies swarmed to start freshman running back Adrian Peterson.

Peterson still managed to run for 101 yards and a touchdown on a tough 29 carries, his ninth straight 100-yard game. He went to the locker room on Oklahoma's go-ahead drive with an apparent arm injury, but returned to help the Sooners run the clock down on their last possession.

"To overcome all that we did today I think is a positive thing,"

People can criticize, which will happen, we're one of those teams that gets it when we win," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "All that we've overcome down here in this atmosphere and still came away with the victory, makes me proud of our players and our coaches who hung in there and made the plays in the end that won the football game."

The Aggies (6-3, 4-2) finished the game without their best offensive weapon, Reggie McNeal left with an apparent injury in the third quarter after throwing for 213 yards and two touchdowns and running for a score.

With the Aggies trailing 35-28, McNeal was relieved by Ty Branyan. The former walk-on led Texas A&M on a long drive with five completions, but the march stalled at the Sooners' 6.

Already having used a faded punt to score a touchdown, Aggies coach Dennis Franchione pulled another fast one on the Sooners. A&M set up for a field goal, but holder Chad Schroeder took the snap, rolled left and flipped a TD pass to Joey Thomas to tie the game.

White, Peterson and the Sooners went right to work getting the lead back. Peterson converted a third quarter drive with a break-in 54-yard run, and the Sooners were aided by a pass interference call.

On third-and-10 at the Aggies 39, White stepped up and away from pressure to deliver a strike down the middle to Mark Bradley, who slipped a tackle at the 15 and went in for a 42-35 lead.

Vols QB Ainge hurt in 17-13 loss to Irish

BY ELIZABETH A. DAVIS
The Associated Press

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Tennessee lost the second member of its heralded freshman quarterback duo, and Notre Dame capitalized with an interception return for a touchdown, then held on to win 17-13 Saturday over the No. 9 Volunteers.

Erk Ainge separated his right shoulder on the final play of the first half when he recovered his own fumble and was sacked. He did not return. His injury came a week after Brent Schaeffer broke his collarbone.

Junior Rick Clausen, the younger brother of former Tennessee quarterback Casey Clausen, replaced Ainge in the second half and almost immediately made a big mistake.

Clausen was being sacked by Derek Landri when he let the ball go. Notre Dame's Mike Godeley caught it and returned it 26 yards for a touchdown and a 14-10 lead. The Fighting Irish (6-3) never trailed again.

The Vols (7-2) now have a week off to regroup and prepare for Southeastern Conference also-rans Vanderbilt and Kentucky, teams it needs to beat to win the SEC East division.

Notre Dame padded its lead in the fourth quarter with D.J. Fitzpatrick's 39-yard field goal. Then all the Irish had to do was stop Tennessee's hapless offense. The Vols punted on their next possession, but got the ball back for a final chance with 2:12 remaining. Tennessee had a bad snap that Clausen had to recover 15 yards behind the line of scrimmage. The Vols' last gasp came on fourth-and-18 when Clausen's pass was incomplete, and the Notre Dame bench erupted in celebration.

Brady Quinn was 12-for-23 for 118 yards and a touchdown for Notre Dame, which only had 216 yards of total offense.

Notre Dame took its first lead, 7-3, in the first quarter on Quinn's 8-yard touchdown pass to Anthony Fasano, ending a drive that featured Darius Walker's 32-yard run.

Tennessee got back in it in the second quarter when Ainge dumped off the ball to Cedric Houston as he was being pressured. Houston dodged defenders and beat Notre Dame's Dwight Ellick to the end zone for a 56-yard touchdown.

Clausen finished 10-for-18 for 120 yards, but the Vols were held to 58 yards rushing.



Notre Dame tight end Anthony Fasano (88) battles the ball but makes the catch for a touchdown in the first quarter Saturday at Tennessee in Knoxville, Tenn. Defending on the play is Jason Allen (18).

No. 4 Cal saved when Oregon's Allen drops pass

BY GREG BEACHAM
The Associated Press

BERKELEY, Calif. — California's fate was in Keith Allen's hands, and the Oregon receiver dropped the ball.

Geoff McArthur caught eight passes for 121 yards and two touchdowns, and fourth-ranked Cal's defense kept Oregon near midfield with 1:30 left when Allen couldn't hold the final pass in the Golden Bears' 28-27 victory Saturday that solidified their Bowl championship hopes.

Aaron Rodgers passed for 275 yards and three TDs, and J.J. Arrington ran for 188 yards and a

score for the Bears (7-1, 5-1 Pac-10), who barely kept alive their big postseason dreams with a strong second half after falling behind 27-14.

Kellen Clemens threw four touchdown passes in the first half for the Ducks (5-4, 4-2), who seemed headed for an upset.

But two key mistakes made the difference: Jared Siegel missed an extra point in the first quarter, and Oregon's final drive ended when Allen dropped a easy fourth-down pass that would have put the Ducks well within field goal range.

Cal snapped a seven-game losing

streak against Oregon with coach Jeff Tedford's first victory over the school where he served as Mike Bellotti's offensive coordinator for four years.

The Bears faced adversity for the first time in a month, and it brought out a gritty second-half performance. Facing a 27-21 halftime deficit, Cal made four sustained drives — but thanks to Tom Schneider's two missed field goals and a fumble by freshman Robert Jordan, the Bears got just seven points.

"Winning the close games is everything," said McArthur, who became Cal's career leader in receptions. "That one could have gone

either way, depending on the fourth quarter. We got a good break at the end, but if he'd caught that ball, who knows?"

Cal went ahead on McArthur's 19-yard TD catch with 13:25 to play. After Schneider missed a 40-yard field goal with 4:20 left, Clemens drove Oregon 36 yards to the 41 — but then threw three straight incompletions, with the final pass bouncing off Allen's hands and helmet near the 20.

Allen stayed flat on his face for several moments while the Bears celebrated.

Tight end Tim Day caught two of Clemens' four TD passes, and Terrence Whitehead ran for 91 yards.



Clemson tailback Reggie Merriweather (37) scores the winning touchdown in overtime Saturday night in Miami as he slides past Miami DB Anthony Reddick (26) and LB Leon Williams (44). Clemson won 24-17.

No. 11 Hurricanes' BCS chances take another hit in overtime loss

Clemson rallies, hands Miami second straight defeat

BY TIM REYNOLDS
The Associated Press

MIAMI — Reggie Merriweather and the Clemson Tigers probably aren't heading to a Bowl Championship Series game this season. They might have assured Miami isn't headed to one, either.

Merriweather ran for a career-high 114 yards and three second-half touchdowns, including a 2-yard score in overtime Saturday night to cap Clemson's 24-17 comeback victory over No. 11 Miami. The Tigers trailed 17-3 at halftime, but dominated the second half and sent the reeling Hurricanes to a second straight loss. "He was essential," quarterback Charlie Whitehurst said.

"When we needed a play, we went to him. He stepped up and met the challenge."

Whitehurst completed 21 of 37 passes for 258 yards for Clemson (5-2, 3-2) out of first place in the ACC, leaving them a game behind Virginia and Virginia Tech in the race for the league title and automatic BCS berth.

Miami visits Virginia next weekend, and hosts Virginia Tech on Dec. 4 in the regular-season finale. The loss knocked the Hurricanes (6-2, 3-2) out of first place in the ACC, leaving them a game behind Virginia and Virginia Tech in the race for the league title and automatic BCS berth.

"This loss will really test us," Hurricanes coach Larry Coker said. "We haven't lost a lot, and now we've lost back-to-back games. It is extremely disappointing."

Clemson needed five plays to score in the extra session, with the Tigers benefiting from a pass-interference penalty against cornerback Kelly Jennings. That moved Clemson to the 10, and Merriweather scored three plays later to cap the Tigers' rally from a 17-3 halftime deficit.

On its overtime possession, Miami moved to the Clemson 5, but three straight incompletions by Brock Berlin sealed the Hurricanes' second straight loss. Berlin's final drive ended with a Lance Leggett in the corner of the end zone, but Clemson's Tyre Hill had him well-covered and the ball bounced away.

Miami begged officials to call pass interference, no flag came. "If it's not called, then it's not pass interference," Coker said.

Clemson outgained Miami 215-104 after halftime, sparking the comeback. "In the second half you have to score points and make plays," said Miami quarterback Brock Berlin, who was 22-for-46 for 245 yards.

The victory marked the first for the Bowden clan against Coker; Clemson coach Tommy Bowden is the son of Florida State coach Bobby Bowden, who is 0-5 against Coker.

"We just didn't quit," Tommy

Bowden said. "We shut them down in the second half completely. ... It goes down to kids not quitting and playing hard."

Miami led 17-3 at halftime and appeared to be cruising. The Hurricanes allowed Clemson only six first downs and 156 yards in the first two quarters, but Clemson seized momentum quickly after Miami missed an opportunity to build a three-touchdown lead.

Devin Hester — who started at tailback and cornerback, plus took his usual roles as kickoff returner, punt returner and on the kick coverage team — dropped an interception at midfield. Had he caught what would have been his second pick of the game, he would likely have scored; no one stood between him and the end zone.

Clemson knew it caught a break, and quickly capitalized.

Whitehurst connected with Aresse Currie for a 37-yard gain on the next play. And on the successive play, Merriweather burst past the Miami line, broke two tackles in the secondary and rumbled in for a 27-yard touchdown that cut Miami's lead to 17-10.

Following two more stalled Miami drives, Clemson used a little trickery to tie the game.

Facing a fourth-and-2 from the Miami 9, Bowden went for a fake field goal and elected to call upon kicker Jai Dean to run for a first down. Dean caught a flip from holder Cole Chason, got to the Miami 3, and Merriweather scored on the next play to tie the game.

Benson scores 5 TDs as No. 6 Texas rallies

BY JIM VERTUNO
The Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas — It must have sounded like a bad joke.

Thoroughly dubious in the first half, Texas coach Mack Brown made a big promise to his team: They would win.

Only this was no joke and no false optimism a coach might use just to get his team back on the field in a blowout. It was real.

Cedric Benson scored five touchdowns Saturday night and No. 6 Texas rallied from a 35-7 first-half deficit to beat No. 19 Oklahoma State 56-35.

The Longhorns trailed 35-14 at halftime when Brown told the Longhorns they would score on their first drive of the third quarter and go on to win. He even predicted a final score of 42-35.

"Unbelievable," Brown said. "After the game I apologized for underestimating them."

Benson's fourth TD gave Texas its first lead at 42-35 early in the fourth quarter. His last, a 6-yard bullrush in which he pushed four defenders across the goal line, put the exclamation point on the incredible comeback that kept the Longhorns' BCS hopes alive.

"That shows the character of this team as far as how tough we are," said senior linebacker Derrick Johnson.

"We never gave up."

A little perspective on just how big of a rally it was: In 111 years of playing football, the biggest deficit the Longhorns (8-1, 5-1 Big

12) had ever overcome to win was 19 points three seasons ago in a Holiday Bowl victory over Washington.

For Oklahoma State (6-3, 3-3), it should go down as one of the most stunning losses in a long, long time, if not ever.

If the Cowboys had managed to shake off the hangover of their three-point loss to No. 2 Oklahoma a week earlier, coach Les Miles isn't likely to shake the hurt from this on any anytime soon.

"I've never been through one like that," Miles said. "There will be some pain. There's no way to have a game like this where you don't ache."

Trailing by four touchdowns in the first half, the Longhorns scored TDs on five straight possessions to take the lead and control of the game.

Quarterback Vince Young had a career night with 278 yards on 18-for-21 passing. He started the rally by running the Longhorns' hurry-up offense to perfection late in the second quarter.

Young's 5-yard TD pass to Bo Scarfe with 1:20 seconds left in the half trimmed the lead to 35-14 and made the rally possible.

Scarfe stretched for the pylon to get the ball into the end zone. The touchdown sent the Longhorns into the locker room thinking anything was possible.

"There was a lot of energy in the locker room," Benson said. "Most teams would have laid down and given up. We fought back to see what the final score was."

Shroud: Beavers fade vs. Trojans in second half

SHROUD, FROM BACK PAGE

and all but took over the second half to snap a three-game Oregon State winning streak.

Leinart completed 17 of 31 passes for 205 yards. He was intercepted once.

Derek Anderson was 22-for-51 for 330 yards and two touchdowns for the Beavers, who could never get a running game started and finished with only 34 yards rushing.

It started well for Oregon State. Alexis Serna's first-quarter field goals from 25 and 33 yards were despite the obvious visual trouble caused by the fog — and the chilly 43-degree temperature at game time.

Joe Newton fumbled a long pass when he was forced down by Trojans safety Darnell Bing, but the ball was scooped up by Hass, who got it down to the Southern Cal line.

A play later, Marcel Love caught Anderson's 8-yard scoring pass to make it 13-0 for Oregon State.

Leinart narrowed it to 13-7 before halftime with a perfectly placed 18-yard scoring pass to Byrd, who was well-covered by cornerback Brandon Browner.

Byrd ran a 25-yard scoring pass from Leinart into the end zone early in the third quarter, he

raised the ball to Southern Cal's fan section.

Bush, the sophomore sensation who came into game ranked sixth in the nation in 2003, those yards, was virtually untouched on his punt return that made it 21-13.

He finished with 11 carries for 88 yards and two catches for 6 yards.

"The kid is unbelievable," Anderson said. "I've never seen anything like it, in the NFL, or worse."

After White's touchdown made it 28-13, Oregon State's Josh Hawkins caught a 36-yard scoring pass from Anderson for the final margin.

The Trojans seem to be getting used to playing in up-Southern California weather. Last week they were pelted by hail before they beat Washington State 42-12 in Pullman, Wash.

This week it was fog so thick at times it was hard to see the ball on pass plays.

"It seems like Mother Nature is throwing everything at us," Leinart said.

The Trojans were the latest in a string of ranked teams that Oregon State has faced this season. The Beavers opened on the road against then-No. 3 LSU, the defending co-national champion. They've also faced Boise State, Arizona State and California.

SPORTS



NBA expansion team makes
Magic its first victim, Page 26



Oregon State quarterback Derek Anderson, bottom, holds his head after he was knocked to the ground by Southern California's Freddie Rucker during the fourth quarter Saturday at Reser Stadium in Corvallis, Ore. Southern California defeated Oregon State 28-20.

Shroud of invincibility

Fog, Oregon St. can't stop No. 1 Southern California

BY ANNE M. PETERSON

The Associated Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — Even the fog couldn't obscure Reggie Bush's wily punt return.

Bush was virtually untouched on the 65-yard scoring return in top-ranked Southern California's 28-20 foggy victory over Oregon State on Saturday night.

"That guy is incredible," Oregon State wide receiver Mike Hass said. "You've got to give him credit on that, he kind of made it happen all by himself."

"That's why he's a Heisman Trophy candidate and he showed that tonight."

Matt Leinart threw two touchdown passes to Dominique Byrd,

and LenDale White ran 5 yards for another score for the defending national champion Trojans (9-0, 6-0 Pac-10).

With just a narrow 14-13 lead, Bush's punt return came early in the fourth quarter.

"We've been in this position before," Bush said. "There was no doubt in our minds we were going to come back in the second half."

Southern California has won 18 consecutive games overall, 13 in a row in the Pac-10 and 10 straight on the road.

As fog rolled into Reser Stadium, the Beavers (4-5, 3-3) jumped out to a surprising 13-0 lead. But the mighty Trojans adjusted to the adverse conditions

SEE SHROUD ON PAGE 31

Hawaii's Chang passes Detmer



Hawaii quarterback Timmy Chang (14) looks to pass against Louisiana Tech during the first quarter Saturday night in Honolulu. Chang broke Brigham Young's Ty Detmer's NCAA career yardage mark of 15,031 yards with a 7-yard touchdown pass to Jason Rivers on Hawaii's second offensive series. Chang finished with 285 yards and four TD passes as the Warriors defeated the Bulldogs 34-23. See story on Page 27.



No. 11 Miami falls to second straight defeat

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No. 5 Wisconsin routs Minnesota, stays atop Big Ten

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Air Force defeats Army for first win in three games

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Haas, Woods locked in tie in Tour Championship

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High-powered offenses drive Colts, Vikings

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